Crime—1924. I Alabama.

# CANTELOU HANGS AT SIX O'CLOCK

## Will Pay for Life of Aged White Woman With His Own; Phelps to Spring Trap

Professing to harbor no resentment or ill feeling towards the jury which convicted him, the judge who sentenced him, or Sheriff Robert C. Phelps, whose hand will exact the penalty for the murder of an aged white woman, Bennie Cantelou, negro, sat in his brightly lighted cell Thursday night while the hands of the clock in the Montgomery county jail moved slowly on their course to the hour when he is to hang. At six o'clock Friday morning the trap is to fall.

Cantelou is to die for having killed Mrs. Susan Mastin, aged Davenport resident by hitting her in the head with a stick. After committing the murder, Cantelou is alleged to have burglarized a safe in the residence, securing a watch and other valuables. The watch was later traced to Cantelou, resulting in his arrest a year after the murder was committed.

In accordance with the time honored custom, Bennie enjoyed his last "square" meal at noon Thursday being accorded the privilege of selecting ingredients for his repast from memory. Bennie departed from the precedent set by negroes who have paid the supreme penalty before him and did not order fish. His dish was bologna sausage and bananas, of which he ate a hearty portion.

Cantelou held his last audience at 5 o'clock Thursday evening, at which time Reverend T. W. Lewis, negro, was admitted to the entrance of the death cell. Cantelou in a formal statement and under oath, denied all complicity with the murder of Mrs. Susan Mastin. As in former statements made, Cantelou claimed to have purchased the watch, identified as that taken from the Mastin residence, from Lee Bedner and Hawk Hall, white men of the Davenport vicinity. Cantelou said he had not been a resident of the community in which the atrocious crime was committed for 13 years.

Sheriff Phelps and his corps of deputies have completed every detail relative to hanging Cantelou in compliance with the verdict of a jury of Montgomery county citizens. The death-trap has been tested. A grass rope was tested and stretched and installed with the hangman's noose awaiting the arrival of the hour for its use.

Cantelou is to be hanged after two unsuccessful attempts to escape from the county jail, the latest being last Tuesday, when with assistance of Lee Mahan, negro turnkey, Cantelou escaped his cell and the jail building. He was captured as he clambered over the confining walls and jumped into the postoffice court yard by Sheriff Phelps. His first attempt was made by removing bricks from his cell window, in which act he was detected and reported to jail authorities by pedestrians.

# CANTELOU ADMITS WOMAN'S SLAYING

## Death Cap Muffles Confession of Doomed Negro; Dies 13 Minutes After Trap Falls

Bennie Cantelou, negro, confessed his guilt and paid for having murdered Mrs. Susan B. Mastin, three years ago on the gallows of Montgomery county jail at 6 o'clock Friday morning, exactly 13 minutes after Sheriff Robert C. Phelps had sprung the trap of the gallows, Cantelou was pronounced dead by Dr. M. B. Kirkpatrick, county physician.

Cantelou made his confession while deputy sheriffs were in the act of concealing his face from view of the spectators by the regulation black cap. His confession was merely a statement of "I done it" and a negative reply to interrogatives of authorities if he had received assistance in perpetrating the crime.

The doomed negro maintained his innocence through the prayer-service conducted for him by negro ministers in the death cell. It was only after he had been lead to the gallows and stood ready for execution that the negro gave his first indication of being willing to make a confession.

Cantelou was convicted for having murdered Mrs. Mastin by beating her over the head with a stick. Her arms were broken when she attempted to ward off blows to her head. Cantelou secured a minor collection of jewels and a small sum of money from burglarizing a safe in the house. A watch he secured was found in his possession, resulting in his arrest and subsequent conviction.

Cantelou was the seventh man in ten years to be hanged with his wrists encircled by handcuffs owned by Deputy Sheriff W. C. (Bill) Frizzle. An audience of approximately 75 white men and one juvenile negro witnessed the execution of Cantelou.

# WHITE MAN STRUCK ON HEAD BY NEGRO

## Assailant Arrested After Long Chase in Madison Ave. Section; Victim Will Recover

The few Sunday morning strollers along Madison avenue paused to witness a thrilling chase of a bloody negro which lasted for several blocks and in which a number of the police force joined on bicycles and automobiles, while others joined in on foot.

The negro after dieting several blocks, was finally brought to bay near the union station and arrested by Lieutenant Avant and Sergeant King, who lodged him at the city jail where he is being held on a charge of assault and attempt to murder C. F. Butts, employe of the Kratzer Ice Cream company, 209 Madison avenue.

According to the story told police the negro fled after striking Butts across the head with an iron pipe that felled him senseless to the floor of the creamery. Mr. Butts, it was said, had accused the negro of stealing cream, and following his denial the fight begun. The negro was cut across the scalp by a knife held by Mr. Butts at the outset of the fracas, police say. The negro then felled his antagonist with a blow from the pipe and fled the scene.

The fight occurred almost within the shadow of the police station and when the negro gained the street a lively chase followed. Mr. Butts' injuries did not prove of a serious nature.

# HIGH COMPLIMENT TO CONVICT SYSTEM

## President Congratulates Governor Brandon on Report of Prison Commission

**Advertiser Bureau.**
**Washington, D. C., March 29.**
**By Russell Kent.**

Governor W. W. Brandon today received the felicitations of President Coolidge upon the excellent report of Alabama's prison system that has been made the president by R. Ogden Chisohm, the chief executive's representative on the international prison commission. The report, which places Alabama's system of treating her prisoners at the head of any state in the union, was rendered while Governor Brandon has been in the East.

In reply to the president's congratulations upon the state's showing, Governor Brandon called Mr. Coolidge's attention to the report of the Department of Justice which places the state well in advance in the matter of law enforcement also.

The Alabama executive went to the White House today in company with Representative William B. Oliver, of the Sixth Alabama District, and Colonel George Jones of the regular army, a native of Alabama, to pay his respects to the president whom he met previously while attending the governor's conference here.

Governor Brandon, who has been in the East in connection with state bond matters, left for Montgomery tonight.

# STATE TAKES OVER MINE AT FLAT TOP ON DELIVERY BASIS

## Contract With Sloss Sheffield Steel and Iron Company Approved by Governor of Alabama

## DIFFERS FROM PACT WITH BESSEMER ALREADY SIGNED

## Operators Will Receive Coal on Cars and State Will Receive $1.30 a Ton

Another forward step toward the complete abolishment of the convict lease system in Alabama was taken Thursday by Governor W. W. Brandon and the state board of commissioners when the chief executive approved a contract between the Sloss-Sheffield Steel and Iron Company and the state whereby convicts will mine and deliver coal on cars at Flat Top, the mine to be operated wholly under the direction and control of the state.

Civilian employes who will direct the mining operations and whose services will be utilized in other capacities, will be employes of the state and their work will be under the state's supervision and control.

The price paid the state for coal mined and delivered on cars, will be based on the price paid free miners, the state to receive on the present basis $1.30 a ton. The company is to pay the tonnage tax. For each ton of coal mined and delivered on the cars, the sum of 2 cents is to be set aside for the creation of a fund for payment of compensation to convicts injured in the service of the state.

This contract differs somewhat from the contract entered into recently between the state and the Bessemer Coal, Iron and Land Company. Under that contract, the state leased the mines outright, agreeing to pay so much per ton for each ton of saleable coal taken from the mines. Provision was also made in that contract for a fund to take care of compensation for any convicts who might suffer injury.

**Experimentation.**

Both contracts represent efforts along different lines on the part of Governor Brandon, L. A. Boyd, president of the state board of administration, and Roy L. Nolen, associate member of the board, to entirely eliminate any semblance of the leasing of convicts in Alabama, and at the same time prevent loss of revenue to the state, with the additional burden

(Continued on Page Two)

# CRIME WAVE IN BIRMINGHAM

The crimes committed in the last week in Birmingham and Jefferson county have been the most brutal of any in the history of our city and county. According to reports, a man struck down two in one short evening within less than three squares of each other. These are credited as axe attacks. The shooting of a father and his son Sunday morning by a street car conductor, killing them almost instantly, is among some of the notorious crimes committed within the last few days. Others might be mentioned.

Our great and prosperous city is getting rough and rowdy. It is nearing the point where we will be forced to the conclusion that the lives of innocent persons are not safe in Birmingham.

The axe murders are becoming bolder and bolder and none are sure that they will not meet the fate of others who are suffering from these brutal attacks so recently made.

We believe that the citizens can help in ridding the community of its criminal element. They can aid officers by reporting all suspicious characters.

There are too many idle people in Birmingham. Strong men are permitted to stalk around in the city without any honorable means of support; they sons who have declared against work schemes for a livelihood. They are robbers and murderers. A program to rid the city of its idle crop of humanity would also mean to rid the city of a large element of its criminals. Every person ought to be forced to some honorable means of support. There is work for everybody in Birmingham and Jefferson county and persons who have declared aaginst work should be forced out or given employment with the city under police guards. The crime wave will not stop as long as we have an over crop of idle people; alley-loafers sleeping in the day

[illegible]aling, robbing, pillaging and murdering at night. Everyone of these crimes when the persons are apprehended can be traced to some individual who is without employment and many times to persons with a notorious jail record. We can sit idle and pay no attention to these atrocities thinking it will all blow over and the officers have things well in hand, if we wish, but such a conclusion is dangerous and we may in that very decision be turning our lives over to criminals of the worst sort. We need

organized effort, such effort can be had if we have pride in ourselves, the protection of our homes and a city protected against a savage element of criminals.

# THREE NEGROES TO HANG AS PENALTY FOR AXE MURDERS

## Triple Execution Likely; Others May be Added; Trial of Owens Postponed Due to Injuries

BIRMINGHAM, ALA., May 29.—Special to The Advertiser.—With three of Birmingham's alleged axe murderers sentenced this week to hang, trial of a fourth, Frank Owens, who confessed Sunday two assaults in which the police claim to have proved his guilt the night before, was postponed Thursday until June 16, because of injuries received in a 20-foot leap from a court house window. All four are negroes.

Dr. L. C. Woods, court house physician, testified as the second day of Owens' trial opened, that the defendant was physically unable to stand trial, having landed head first on the pavement when he sought to evade officers Wednesday. His answer to the indictment was barely audible, Judge William E. Fort, in the criminal division of circuit court, understanding that a plea of not guilty was to be entered. It is thought that he will say police forced his confession.

Postponement of the trial, Solicitor J. G. Davis showed, would probably enable the court to hear the testimony of L. M. Watkins and Richard Warner, who were almost killed late Saturday night, when police found Owens running from the vicinity with a blood stained axe.

Those having already been convicted and given the death penalty are Odell and Pearl Jackson, man and wife, and Peyton Johnson, all of whom are said to have been members of one skulling party.

Following a recommendation for the death penalty by jury for Pearl Jackson, the woman's husband, Odell, was convicted and sentenced to death Wednesday evening. They were all tried before Judge H. P. Heflin. In all probability, according to present plans in the sheriff's office, the three negroes will be hanged together. If others, facing charges of participating in other axe attacks are sentenced to die they may be hanged with the Johnson gang, it is said.

The Jackson negroes and Johnson are alleged to have gone out on what they themselves termed a "skulling party," which resulted in the death of John Robert Turner, one year ago. Mary Frances Saunders, negress, who testified against all three negroes, is believed to have produced the evidence which resulted in convictions. The Saunders woman testified that she overheard the three planning the "skulling party," and then heard them discussing it later on.

# AXE WIELDER OWNS TO BRUTAL ATTACK

## Birmingham Police Arrest Negro and Secure Confession of Double Assault

BIRMINGHAM, ALA., May 25.—Special to The Advertiser.—Sam Wilson, alias Ed Jackson, negro axe fiend who was captured by police late Saturday night, in a hand to hand battle, a short distance from where two white men were brutally assaulted Sunday, issued a full confession in which he admitted striking down both men for the purpose of robbing them.

Simultaneously with the negro's confession, authorities succeeded in establishing the identity of both the victims.

One of the victims was identified as L. M. Watkins, of Ensley. Watkins, who was the more seriously injured of the two, was still alive late Sunday afternoon, although he showed no signs of regaining consciousness. The second victim was identified as Richard Warner, thought to have been a resident of the northside.

Both men were of about the same age, apparently around 35, well dressed and were similarly attacked with a hand axe wielded by Wilson. The former, however, received a more severe fracture of the skull, and it was considered possible that Warner may recover. High lights in the confession of Watkins included:

Both men were attacked between 11 and 12 o'clock, the assaults occurring almost successively. In each case, the two men approached the negro in search of liquor, and were lured to obscure points and assaulted. Robbery was the motive in each case.

The assailant denied participating in any of the former axe assaults in Birmingham, stating that he was without funds, and having read newspaper accounts of axe crimes, decided that it would be comparatively easy to obtain money. Wilson identified both of the injured men as his victims, stating that he obtained approximately $21 and a watch in both robberies.

Police Sunday were admittedly skeptical concerning the negro's statement that the Saturday night attacks were his first.

# CONDUCTOR KILLS TWO ON TROLLEY; COAL MINER SLAIN

## Two Axe Victims Near Death; Wielder of Weapons Makes Complete Confession.

## WEEK END CRIME WAVE KEEPS OFFICERS BUSY

### Grand Jury Starts Investigations In Effort To Rush Indictments.

Three are dead and two others in a dying condition as a result of a week-end crime wave which passed over the Birmingham district Saturday night and Sunday!

The dead are:

N. L. Green, 41, miner, shot near his home at Overton Mines Sunday afternoon, by "Son" Home, Negro miner, following a gambling quarrel.

Arthur and Robert Jones, Negroes, shot early Sunday morning on a South Bessemer trolley, by Conductor Homer Best.

The wounded:

Richard Warner, 414 North Sixteenth Street, and L. M. Watkins, 1712 Twenty-Sixth Street, Ensley, victims of a murderous assault by Frank Owens, Negro, and self-confessed axeman.

The latter two who were struck down Saturday night, between 11 and 12 o'clock, within a block of each other, by the axeman, are reported in a critical condition. Hillman Hospital authorities declared that although the victims had undergone an operation to relieve the pressure from the fracture, they were still in an extremely dangerous condition, with recovery doubtful.

Watkins was struck on top of the head with an axe at 11 o'clock, in front of 1515 Fourth Avenue, North, and abandoned after his pockets had been rifled. Warner, who was attacked less than a block away, near the entrance of Fourth Alley and Sixteenth street, was not discovered until early Sunday morning, two hours after police had captured his assailant. Warner was found several blocks from the scene of the attack and police believe that he must have wandered away in his delirium.

### Owens Confesses.

Owens, who battled furiously with his capitors, Scouts N. C. Propst and W. Sandefer, before he was finally subdued, Sunday confessed to attacking both men and intimated that he was aided in the crimes by a confederate, whom he would not name.

Owens resided near Smithfield and goes under the names of Sam Wilson and Ed Jackson. His correct name, however, was discovered in police files, which showed that he was tried and sentenced for 13 months on a burglary charge in 1917.

In his confession Sunday morning Owens declared that he was without funds and determined to strike down pedestrians in the fashion pursued by the axemen.

Watkins, he declared, was waylaid between Fifteenth and Sixteenth Streets, on Fourth Avenue, North, and was struck down from the back and dragged into the yard at 1515 Fourth Avenue and robbed.

### Seeking Liquor, Is Claim.

Warner, he declared, approached him in search of liquor. He added that he told the white man to follow him to a place where no one could see the transaction.

Owens declared he struck Warner near the mouth of the alley, and was entirely unable to account for the fact that he was not found near the scene. A pool of blood was found at the point where he stated the crime occurred.

Police trailed the injured man to his home, nearby, where drops of blood indicated he had staggered to the porch and later wandered away.

Owens stated in his confession that this was his first axe crimes.

### Shot in Quarrel.

N. L. Green, Overton Mines, was shot and almost instantly killed Sunday afternoon, by "Son" Home in a quarrel following a gambling game in the woods near his home.

Coroner J. D. Russum, who investigated, declared that the two men struggled and that Home finally wrested Green's pistol from the latter's hands and fired three shots, two of which took effect.

One of the shots struck Green in the chin, grazed downward into his body and pierced his heart. This wound caused death. The second shot lodged in the miner's side.

Several Negroes attending the game witnessed the tragedy and declared that Home bolted away through the woods after the killing.

A squad of deputies searched the woods for miles Sunday afternoon but could find no trace of the slayer.

### Conductor Kills Two.

Robert and Arthur Jones, father and son, were fatally shot Sunday morning at 11 o'clock, on a Bessemer-bound South Bessemer trolley, by Conductor Best. The trouble resulted from a quarrel over payment of fare.

Arthur Jones was shot in the abdomen and died two hours later at the Elizabeth Duncan hospital. His father, shot in the head, died late Sunday night.

The two were residents of Wenonah Mines.

Best was being held Monday morning on instructions issued by solicitor of the Bessemer cut-off, pending a former investigation of the tragedy.

### Tow Negroes Wounded.

Two other colored men were seriously wounded Sunday in two affrays occurring during the day. Eugene Jackson, 2902 Sixth Avenue, South, was riddled with bullets fired by James Lee, 515 South Twenty-Ninth Street, at 8:15 Sunday night. The shooting occurred at the former's rooms and was the result of a quarrel. Lee escaped, according to a report of City Detectives W. L. Brannon and O. D. Brown.

Mrs. Lola Ward, a colored woman, 2315 North Eighteenth Street, was severely cut by another woman, whose identity had not been fully ascertained. The assailant, known as "Pearl," attacked Mrs. Ward near First Alley and Twenty-Fourth Street. Jealousy is said to have prompted her in the attack. The girl escaped.

Grand jury investigation of each case was begun Monday morning in an effort to rush indictments where found warranted.

### Found Near Each Other.

The two victims of the ax attacks were found by police a few blocks distant from each other at different times late Saturday night and early Sunday morning. Both of them were unconscious when found, and had evidence of having been struck on the head by an ax-like weapon, and the pockets of both of them were turned inside out, completely rifled.

Watkins was the first one found, being discovered in front of a house at 1515 Fourth avenue, north, after the occupants of the house had given the alarm. He had evidently been

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dragged about 20 feet and left in the front yard.

Warner was found about 1:40 o'clock Sunday morning.

**Has Bloody Ax and Money**

Owens had been apprehended about midnight by Officers Woody Sandifer and N. C. Propst, who discovered him with a blood-covered ax, which he hurried threw over a fence, according to officers, when he was seen. He attempted his escape twice, once after having tried to wrench a pistol from one of the officers, but he was halted and carried to the city jail. In his pockets were found coins and currency amounting to $14.63.

# JEFFERSON COUNTY SPEEDS TRIALS IN AXE MURDER LIST

### Negro Woman, Pearl Jackson, Second Sentenced to Hang; Her Husband Also Being Tried

### SATURDAY'S AXEMAN IS FOILED IN FREEDOM BREAK

### Frank Owens, Negro, Jumps From Window, Landing Head First on Concrete

BIRMINGHAM, ALA., May 28. Special to The Advertiser.—Offsetting a record of eight killings in the past four days Jefferson county courts Wednesday speeded what is thought to be the end of Birmingham's ax assaults which in the past three years have claimed 25 dead and 21 wounded, the last victim being killed Tuesday night in a downtown garage by Frank Owens, negro axman, who confessed two assaults Sunday after being caught red-handed Saturday night by police, today was on trial, charged with the attack.

5-24-24

Pearl Jackson, negress, alleged member of the ax gang, was under sentence of death today following conviction by a jury Tuesday night in connection with the murder of J. H. Turner, in a northside alley one year ago. The trial was completed in one day before Judge H. P. Heflin.

Odell Jackson, husband of the convicted woman today went on trial in the same court in connection with the Turner slaying. Both husband and wife are alleged to be members of the Peyton Johnson gang which is charged with Turner's ax murder.

Johnson himself, who was sentenced to hang several weeks ago following a round-up of ax suspects, is awaiting the outcome of an appeal to the supreme court.

**Given Life Sentence.**

Fred Glover, another negro alleged to have attacked with an ax and robbed of $7 Mrs. Sophie Zideman, today was sentenced to life imprisonment by a jury in Judge William E. Fort's court. Glover claimed he knew nothing of the attack. Sentence will be formally passed Saturday upon Glover by Judge Fort and upon Pearl Jackson by Judge Heflin..

**May Get Death.**

Will Dowell, negro, is also facing the trial for alleged complicity in ax attacks with a death penalty possible

Owens, whose trial began immediately after the necessary 24 hours after indictment passed, made a wild leap from a window in the bureau of identification to the street 20 feet below. He was not seriously injured, although attorneys asked a continuance on the ground of his injury. Pending a decision as to the extent of the negroe's

pay their street car fare early Sunday. N. L. Green, Overton miner, was killed Sunday afternoon in a card game row with an unidentified negro. Sam Bates was killed Monday night by W. D. Clark when the latter claimed to have found Bates attacking Mrs. Clark. Mary Minor, negro, was stabbed to death Tuesday morning at Dolomite, assailant unidentified. Isaiah Gamble, negro, was killed Tuesday night by W. D. Smith, Ensley policeman and Him Martin negro was killed by another negro at Vanderbilt furnace. Three men are in a critical condition as result of the week-end crime wave. Watkins and Warner whom Owens admitted attacking, and J. L. Canterbury, stabbed Sunday afternoon.

# DAVIS URGES ALL JOBS DONE WELL

### Editor of Atlanta Independent Speaks to Graduating Class at State Normal

Emphasizing the ability to do every job well as the test of real preparation, Benjamin J. Davis, of the Atlanta Independent, thrilled his hearers at the fiftieth commencement of the State Normal school yesterday morning in Tullibody auditorium. Terming the three essentials of race success as grace, greenback and grit, Editor Davis urged the graduates to go out determined to measure up fully in the fundamental present-day requisites of success, and, thus demand their due.

"The job, no matter how mmenial, should be done well or not at all," said Editor Davis.

The prize and scholarship awards were an interesting feature of the morning. Scholarships for proficiency during the first year of Junior College were awarded to Winnie Bailey and Margaret Clark, Birmingham, with Edna Jones, Birmingham, and Leona Lyons, as alternates. The G. F. Oliver scholarship for the best first quarter Junior College student was awarded to Dorothy Jackson, Montgomery, with Laura King, Birmingham, as alternate.

The G. W. Trenholm and the faculty scholarships for excellent work in

# NABBED WITH GORY BLADE BY SCOUTS; VICTIMS ARE DYING

### Fashionably Dressed Men Found On Northside With Skulls Crushed; Auto Patrolmen, Encountering Fiend, Forced To Shoot To Subdue Him.

Two unidentified white men were at the point of death at Hillman Hospital early Sunday morning, victims of a negro axeman who attacked them late Saturday night, one near 1513 Fourth Avenue, North, and another near 806 North Fourteenth Street, robbed them and fled in the darkness, only to be shot and captured ten minutes later, less than four blocks away, in a spectacular battle with two police scouts.

The victims were struck over the heads and their skulls crushed, between 11 and 12 o'clock, the first on Fourth Avenue, midway between North Fifteenth and Sixteenth Streets. One was found a few seconds after the axe man had dragged him into a nearby yard and rifled his pockets, and was rushed to the hospital by city detectives (Paul Cole and H. C. Propst).

The second victim was found by deputy sheriffs (Eubanks and Dishroon), who went to the house of Bertha Davis, negro woman, who resides at No. 806, to arrest a negro for forfeiture of bond. When they stepped up on the porch, they stumbled over a body. This was about 1:45 a. m. Sunday. The man was lying face downward and the blood on his head had dried, leading authorities, when they compared notes later, to believe that the same negro had committed both crimes within a short space of time. The woman of the house professed to know nothing of the crime, and she was not arrested.

The assailant, a tall mulatto negro, was stopped by Automobile Scouts W. Sandefer and N. C. Propst at Sixteenth Street and Seventh Alley, North. He was nabbed by the officers who saw him fleeing up the alleyway and waylaid him as he entered Sixteenth Street.

As he encountered the officers the negro made a frantic effort to discard a hand axe he had concealed under the coat. The weapon was recovered and was found to bear a large blood stain.

At an early hour Sunday morning, neither of the victims had been identified, although police made a thorough search of their effects in an effort to establish identity.

The white man found at No. 1513 appeared to be about 35 years old. He was fashionably dressed, wearing a modishly cut suit of light gray, tan shoes, a silk shirt and a felt Spring hat.

When Detectives Cole and Propst arrived at the scene, they found him lying in the yard at 1513, the residence of Clara Brown, a negro woman. The white man was unconscious and was bleeding profusely from the deep gash in the top of his head. All of the contents of his pockets had been emptied, and the pocket linings outturned. Some of the pockets had been partly torn out, as if the assailant had hastily searched them.

No trace of his identity could be found and early Sunday morning the only possible clew possessed by investigators was a crumpled handbill advertising a camp meeting at Dolomite.

**Injuries Believed Fatal.**

Physicians who examined him at the Hillman declared that in all probabilities his injury would prove fatal and little hope was entertained for his survival through the night.

In addition to the fracture of the skull, the victim bore several facial bruises, which indicated that his assailant had clubbed him in the face in a brief struggle after felling him with the axe.

Detectives Cole and Propst declare that the assault evidently occurred while the victim was walking down Fourth Avenue, as they found imprints of his heels leading from the pavement to a point fully 15 feet within the Brown woman's yard. The assailant, they declare, evidently dragged his victim into the yard to search his pockets.

Clara Brown, who gave the alarm which brought police to the scene, told the two officers that she heard a distinct lick, followed by a thud shortly after 11 o'clock. She stated that at the time she was in a front room and walked out on the front porch soon afterward, where she found the victim. When she arrived there, however, the assailant had fled, police declare, as she saw no one in the immediate vicinity at the time.

**The second episode of the crime transpired less than ten minutes**

afterward, when Scouts Propst and Sandefer, entirely unaware of the attack on Fourth Avenue, saw the negro running up the alley.

The negro, however, was not stopped until he had lost a furious fight with the scouts and even after they believed he had been subdued, he again fled, and was not stopped until he was shot in the right arm, three blocks away.

In the first encounter with the axeman, Officer Sanderfer attempted to stop the negro, but the latter struggled for some time in an effort to wrench his gun from him. In this encounter, the negro locked the officer's wrist and nearly succeeded in wrenching his arm out of joint. Several shots were fired at the time, while both officers clubbed him over the head with the butts of their revolvers, until they believed he had been knocked unconscious.

Placing the negro in their automobile and recovering the blood stained hand axe he had attempted to discard they drove away, to the city jail. They had hardly turned around, however, when the negro, who apparently had purposely feined unconsciousness, to escape his captors, suddenly leaped out of the automobile and dashed away. The officers gave pursuit and fired fully a dozen shots at him until the negro finally staggered to his knees and fell sprawling, at Fourteenth Street and Sixth Alley North.

The negro, handcuffed, was then rushed to the Hillman Hospital. Later, it was found that he had been shot but once, a bullet piercing his right arm. After rendering medical attention, he was released and was returned to the city jail under heavy guard.

The only clew found which might lead to his early identification was the letters "F. O." sewn into his coat.

The negro wore overall trousers and a dark green coat. In the pockets of the former was found $12.75 in currency and silver. Many of the bills were blood-soaked, and on several pieces of change was found a thick coating of congealed blood. This, police believe, was the blood of the victim, because they believe it hardly possible the blood from his own injuries would have congealed so quickly.

The second victim was found more than two hours after the first, and at 2:45 Sunday morning his condition was said to be fully as serious as that of the first victim.

The attacks marks the nineteenth and twentieth in the past four years, in which 32 persons have been attacked and 15 killed. In addition to these, seven persons have been killed in what police characterize as straight alley murders.

The negro was identified at 2 o'clock by a Smithfield grocer as Ed Jackson, who resides in lower Eighth Alley near Smithfield.

# GRAND JURY PROBING SHOOTING COLORED WOMEN BY POLICE

### Citizens Assert Action of Policeman A. E. Phillips Unjustified.

### SELF-DEFENSE, CLAIMS MEMBER TRAFFIC SQUAD

### WOMEN HAD BEEN DRINKING AND BOTH ATTACKED HIM, HE DECLARES.

The Jefferson county grand jury is making a full investigation of the shooting of Mrs. Annie Lee Pitts and Miss Bessie Tate, Negro women, at their home at the rear of 2104 Humboldt avenue, South, about 3 o'clock Friday afternoon by Traffic Policeman A. E. Phillips, when the body reconvened Monday morning, Solicitor Jim Davis announced Saturday, following several complaints of residents of that section that the shooting was not in self-defense by the officer, but because of malice borne the Pitts woman.

Birmingham Reporter

Mrs. Pitts was shot once through the head, and hospital authorities at the Hillman state that she would not live. The other woman is considered in a very serious condition, although she is some worse than when carried to the hospital Friday afternoon. She was shot through the left breast.

John W. Altman, chairman of the civil service board, declared Saturday that the board would take up a probe of the affair just as soon as the grand jury investigation was complete. He stated that Phillips had already been suspended at one time from service on the force because of trouble with a Negro in the vicinity of the Hillman hospital, and that a full probe of Friday's affair would be instituted by the civil service board.

8-28-24

The entire neighborhood in the vicinity of the shooting was indignant Saturday over the affair, and many complaints were being registered by the neighbors with authorities. Dr. O. T. Dozier who lives at 2106 Humboldt avenue, and by whom Miss Bessie Tate was employed, in a statement Saturday morning, declared it "was the most outrageous affair to be perpetrated on the citizens of Birmingham in the history of the city." He stated that "it was cold-blooded, nothing short of it; and the authorities should take the matter up at once.

"Those women had done nothing to be shot down in cold-blood, and if what I hear is correct, the Pitts woman had made no resistance when told she was under arrest. She had stepped back into the doorway of the house, frightened, when the Tate woman began wrestling with the officer after he had pounded her in the head with his billy. As the tussle proceeded, according to my information, the officer pulled his gun, aimed point blank at the Pitts woman and shot her through the head. He then turned the gun on the other woman and fired, the shot taking effect in her side. He attempted to fire again but the gun was taken away from him by D. C. Brown, who lives at my house, and possibly prevented another killing.

"I know Bessie Tate. She has been working for me for some time. I know that she was not drunk as the officer stated. Neither was the other woman. It is just a cooked-up affair. Phillips had it in for the Pitts woman because she had moved from one of his houses after tearing the wall paper off the house, which belonged to her. She later refused to wash for his wife, as she was sick.

"According to several white women of the neighborhood, there was no trouble at the house before the officer arrived. No one had been drinking. The women were on the porch ironing, when Phillips came up and told them they were under arrest. Bessie Tate offered a protest, whereupon the officer pulled his billy and struck her across her head. He then threw his billy away, according to her testimony and pulled his gun, firing point blank at the other woman; whom he had it in for, and struck her in the head. She fell just inside the door. He then turned the gun on the other woman. That's all there is to it," the doctor declared.

Phillips tells another tale. He declares that he went to the house to arrest the women for disorderly conduct, whereupon they jumped on him He stated they had been drinking. In the tussle that followed, he declares, they took his billy away from him and he was forced to fire in self-defense, after they had nearly succeeded in taking his gun away from him.

Solicitor Davis stated Saturday that he would have witnesses of the shooting subpeonaed before the grand jury for Monday and also the Tate woman, if she was in a condition to appear. He stated that a full probe of the matter would be taken up.

Neighbors in the vincinity of the shooting were so indignant Saturday over the affair, that they volunteered to leave their duties and cooperate with the authorities in getting to the bottom of the whole affair.

Phillips was still at liberty Saturday.

#### Old Feeling Recalled.

"Many months ago," they said, "Annie lived in a house owned by Phillips and located on the same lot as his residence. When she moved into the house, it was said to be in poor condition, and that her employer, a Mrs. Hickman, gave her some wallpaper. This she put on the walls of the house. When she moved from the place, she tore off the wallpaper and took it with her.

"At that time Phillips arrested her and took her to court. Some time later he asked her to do a bit of washing for his wife. She told him that she was ill and could not do the work. That apparently enraged him more than ever, and he arrested her on a charge of vagrancy.

"That case fell through because she was able to prove that she was working regularly."

Friday afternoon's affray, they believe, was started when Phillips saw the woman across the alley from his home. The two women were together in the rear of 2104 Homboldt, it is reported."

# PUCKETT FOUND GUILTY OF CRIME

### Vina Farmer Convicted of Serious Charge; Sentenced to Hang

RUSSELLVILLE, ALA., Aug. 30.—A verdict of guilty was today found by a jury in the case of Porter Puckett, Vina, Ala., farmer, charged with attacking his eleven year old niece, who later died. He was sentenced to be hanged October 3. Puckett is 21 years old.

Birmingham News

8-31-24

The date of his execution will be automatically suspended by an appeal taken immediately by Puckett's attorneys, Travis Williams and W. L. Chenault.

There was only a small crowd in the court room when the verdict was brought in and there was no demonstration. Puckett will probably be taken to some other jail. Puckett, himself, was little moved by the verdict. He had expressed himself as expecting no other result.

Crime—1924. Alabama.

# ALDRICH MUTINY PREMEDITATED BY BANNER CONVICTS

## Shelby County Grand Jury Says Leaders in Outbreak From Mine Where Convicts Previously Rebelled

## MINING COMPANY TREATS ITS PRISONERS HUMANELY

## "Dog House" Used for Punishment of Refractory Prisoners Same as in U. S. Army

COLUMBIANA, ALA., Feb. 6.—The Shelby county grand jury today made an extensive report on the recent convict mutiny at Aldrich. Warden J. N. Jernigan and his assistants were declared to be capable men and in no way responsible for the uprising.

The report said in part:

"We report that we find at Aldrich camp, the state of Alabama has in charge J. N. Jernigan, as warden. He has served as warden during the administrations of Governor O'Neal, Governor Henderson and one half of the administration of Governor Kilby. The evidence before us, from state officials, mine owners and convicts themselves convince us that Warden Jernigan is a man well qualified to fill the position he holds; that he well deserves the confidence of the state officials, which he enjoys, and is fair and impartial to the convicts who are serving the state of Alabama under him.

**Closely Examined Witnesses.**

"We arrive at this conclusion after a close cross-examination of every witness before us including the leaders in the mutiny at Aldrich. Assistant Warden Walker, who has charge of the feeding of convicts, the sleeping quarters, sanitary conditions and who takes the place of the warden himself in his absence, has also been through the crucial test before us and we respectfully represent that in our judgment he is also fair and just. Along with Warden Jernigan he is in no wise to blame for the uprising of such convicts occurring at Aldrich some days ago.

"We further find that in the testimony heard that the state in addition to the above named officers has an assistant warden, Mr. Tatum by name, who is an expert miner. It is his duty to go down with the convicts into the mine and see that the convicts are fairly treated by the foremen of the mining company and not required to do more than the task allotted to such convicts by the state; it is also the official duty of this assistant warden to report to the warden when the convicts have refused to do their work otherwise disobeyed orders and upon such report punishment is meted out to such convicts by the warden himself.

**Company Does Not Punish.**

"The coal company nor its agents have no authority whatsoever to administer punishment to convicts and we have had no testimony tending to show that any officer or agent of the coal company working such convicts at Aldrich have attempted in any way to overstep their authority.

"We further suggest that we find from the testimony that during the latter part of the administration of Governor Kilby what is known as the 'dog house' was instituted at Aldrich as well as at the other mines using convicts in Alabama as a mode of punishment. This is a small inclosure built next to the wall in a room on the lower floor of the stockade at Aldrich, which enclosure is only large enough to accommodate a man standing, there being no room for him to sit or rest his body in any way except in the upright position. The convict is placed in such enclosure, commonly called the 'dog house' for punishment of disobedience to orders as well as failure to do the task allotted to him, and is required to stay in said place until he agrees to mend his ways. Every convict examined prefers the dog house mode of punishment to the lash, which had been generally used until the executive order of Governor Kilby abolishing the lash from all the convict camps within the bounds of the state.

**Same as Army "Dog House."**

"We are informed that the 'dog house' used in the convict camp is the same as that used in the United States army in punishing our regular soldiers.

"We further suggest that in our unanimous judgment in extreme cases the lash may be the most effective punishment to be administered to a convict but not until all other methods have failed. We do know that two serious mutinies have occurred in Alabama within the last six months among the convicts under the 'dog house' mode of punishment, when no such thing has heretofore occurred when the lash might be used in extreme cases. We do not care to be understood to mean that we recommend the lash when other modes of punishment would be effective. We find, however, from the testimony that during the month of November, 1923, Thomas and Weller Mining company leased the Aldrich mines from the receiver of the Montevallo Mining company; that shortly thereafter some 150 convicts were leased from the state of Alabama and among the number sent to Aldrich were several convicts who were at the Banner mines in September, 1923, and took a prominent part in the uprising at such place. It seems that things went smoothly at Aldrich so far as we are able to learn until Christmas day, 1923, while a string band from Birmingham furnished by the mining company for the day as a Christmas present to the convicts was playing. One of the leaders in the Banner mine disturbance was overheard to say:

**Previous Threats by Convicts.**

"'We have made a Christian out of Banner and the same thing will be done here in a few days,' and one of his fellows replied, that in his judgment a $15,000 or $20,000 damage would break the little coal company at that place. Later on there was objection on the part of a convict to the rule of Assistant Warden Walker requiring the convicts to march to their meals in orderly fashion and to leave the dining room together.

"The testimony, however, convinces us that the real excuse of the mutiny was the punishment administered to a convict on the night prior to said mutiny, which punishment, we find, was not too severe in our judgment and was justly warranted.

"We further find that only eight or ten convicts seemed to have willingly engaged in the mutiny.

"We further find that the convicts who were leading in the uprising attempted to take the life of the officials.

"We further suggest that we find the premises at Aldrich scrupulously clean, the food good and in sufficient quantity; the bed and bedding the very best, the sanitary conditions good and we desire to especially commend the coal company for their efforts to prevent accidents.

"We urge that the convict department continue their vigilance in seeing that the unfortunate convicts are properly cared for and not overlooked nor their task too heavy and that they should be encouraged to learn the error of their ways."

The grand jury indicted seven state convicts, alleged leaders, in connection with the mutiny at Aldrich.

# Brandon Paroles Negroes Up for Taking Winnings

Sam McCray and St. Elmore Ballard negroes, convicted in Hale county August 5, 1916, of robbery, and sentenced to 20 years in prison each, as the result of a craps game at the conclusion of which they relieved their opponent of winnings they alleged he had amassed with loaded dice, were paroled by Governor W. W. Brandon, Thursday. The amount of coin of the realm involved in the game which had such serious consequences, is said to have been less than $10. Governor Brandon, in his formal order of parole said:

"In the matter of the application for the parole or pardon of Sam McCray, and St. Elmore Ballard, who were convicted in the circuit court of Hale county, the file discloses the fact that the conduct of these men as prisoners has been good; that they have served eight years in the penitentiary; that this case of robbery grew out of a game of cards or craps on a plantation in the southern part of Hale county; that possibly less than $10 was involved and on personal injury or violence was used and the defendants took from the party the winnings which they thought had been illegally won from them in this game of cards or craps, charging the other party with using loaded dice.

"While I do not condone the offense I am of the opinion that the eight years already served is a long enough sentence for this type of crime committed by a plantation negro.

"The trial judge, the solicitor who prosecuted the case, the judge of probate, the circuit clerk, and other county officials and many citizens recommended a parole. The board of pardons, on December 6, 1923, unanimously recommended this parole. In accordance with these recommendations, and being firmly convinced that these darkies have been sufficiently punished for the crime, let parole issue during good behavior."

# INMATES OF KILBY BRAND ATTACK ON CONDITIONS FALSE

## White Inmates Gather Voluntarily in Mass Meeting to Answer Letter Published Friday Afternoon

## THINK MALICE OF LOWEST ORDER PROMPTED WRITERS

## Describe Conditions Ideal So Far as They May be Behind Walls and Steel Bars

Statements contained in a letter published in Montgomery, Friday afternoon, in which complaint was made of poor and insufficient food and treatment generally and which bore the signature "The White Inmates of Kilby Prison," are denounced as "false and unjust" in a statement issued Friday evening by five inmates acting as a committee for the prisoners at Kilby. Resentment is expressed at the injustice which it is stated has been done Warden J. N. Harris.

The committee was chosen at a short meeting held voluntarily in the prison dining hall following an entertainment program for the benefit of the inmates, presented by visitors from Montgomery. After the statement had been drawn up by Theo Lacey and J. A. Christy, prisoners at Kilby, and read in the presence of the signers, the following, composing the committee of prisoners, affixed their signatures to the statement: Charles L. Carman, Homer A. Carmack, E. N. Cochran, U. E. Dover and Homer Stanley.

This statement declares: "Authoritively—since there are a number of men who have served time in other prisons—we start with the declaration that Kilby prison is, in many respects the best conceived, the best conducted, and the least undesirable penitentiary in America, for from our point of view all institutions of this kind are objectionable to us as individuals." Also: "In no other prison known to us is such freedom permitted."

**Races Separate.**

It is declared as far as is humanly possible, white prisoners and negro inmates are kept separate, that there are two main cells, one each for the two races; that in the dining-hall in the bathing quarters, and elsewhere the line of race is drawn as distinctly as possible, "and if there have been complaints among us on this score this committee, representing the big majority of the white men, has never even murmured."

The food is wholesome, ample and excellently prepared, "in as clean a kitchen, as modernly equipped, as will be found in the majority of metropolitan hotels." If there has been tainted meat, the statement says, "we do not know of it, and since we eat at a common table, we feel free to contradict this statement." Of what is served at each meal, it is stated, a man is limited in quantity by his capacity only—also that while biscuits are not served daily or at each meal, white bread is varied with corn bread and biscuits.

Laundry facilities, the statement sets out, "need no defense," adding, the modern equipment of the institution leaves it inconsequental as to whose clothes are washed with other clothes.

The statement continues: "It will be noticed that we are dealing with conditions and casting no aspersions on the writer of the alleged letter," and then it is stated: "Yet one is prompted to ask what the motive of that communication could have been. We men feel that it must be prompted by the lowest of malice, for its unwarranted attack on the warden. We hold no brief for Captain Harris but we resent the injustice done him. It is poor compensation for his many kindnesses to us and the gradual broadening of privileges under his direction." As to discipline, the statement says: "We know of no brutal punishment at Kilby prison."

**Answer Letter.**

The full text of the statement which

is addressed to the press of Alabama follows:

"Under the caption, "Protest on Kilby by Inmates," there appears in the Montgomery Journal of this date an alleged communication to the paper named and signed "The White Inmates of Kilby Prison."

"Acting for practically the unanimous white convict-body of Kilby prison, uninfluenced by any official suggestion and without a particle of coercion, this committee has been chosen by the prisoners to issue this statement in refutation of the unjust and injurious publication referred to.

"Authoritatively—since there are a number of men here who have served time in other prisons—we start with the declaration that Kilby prison is, in many respects, the best conceived, best conducted, and the least undesirable penitentiary in America, far from our point of view all institutions of this kind are objectionable to us as individuals.

"In no other prison known to us is such freedom permitted. Very largely aside from the fact that we are shut off from the world, we are free men, free in our speech among ourselves, free to mix and mingle without let or hindrance so long as we respect the very reasonable rules laid down for us, free to receive the visits of our relatives periodically without restrictions that would invade our privacy in the slightest degree; in toto, free to be men, with reasonable initiative. This alone is a boon above value that words can express.

"We are locked in our cells during our sleeping hours only, with clean bedding for each man, with modern toilets in the cells, running water, steam heat, and, in short, facilities that rival the equipment of first-class hotels. In these respects many of the men have vastly superior accomodations to those to which they are accustomed in the free world.

"It is true that this is a mixed camp—about 400 whites and 300 negroes. As far as is humanly possible, however, we white prisoners and the colored inmates are kept separate; there are two main cells, one each for the two races. In the dining hall in the bathing quarters, and elsewhere the line of race is drawn as distinctly as possible, and if there have been complaints among us on this score this committee, representing the big majority of the white men, has never heard murmurings.

"The food is wholesome, ample, and excellently prepared, in as clean a kitchen, as modernly equipped, as will be found in the majority of metropolitan hotels. True, there is some monotony in the fare but as we say among ourselve at times, 'We can make it on this.' At noon meat is passed in large pans so the men can help themselves unlimitedly. If there has been tainted meat we do not know of any, and, since we eat at a common table, we feel free to contradict this statement. Of what there is served at each meal, a man is limited in quantity by his capacity only. It is true that biscuits are not served daily or at each meal, but the writer of the alleged communication omitted to mention that white bread is varied with corn bread and biscuits. In this, as in other accommodations, we are well, but not extravagantly, furnished, and, again, many of the men get as good as they would at home. We heard a prisoner say recently, 'This is better than my family is getting; I wish I might move them here.'

"As regards the laundry facilities they need no defense. The modern equipment of the institution leaves it inconsequential as to whose clothes are washed with other clothes. In Montgomery today innumerable families entrust their washing to negroes and that washing is done under conditions and in surroundings that make the situation at Kilby appear ideal.

"It will be noticed that we are dealing with conditions and casting no aspersions on the writer of the alleged letter published in The Journal. Yet one is prompted to ask what the motive of that communication could have been. We men feel that it must be prompted by the lowest of malice, for its unwarranted attack on the warden. We hold no brief for Captain Harris, but we resent the injustice done him. It is poor compensation for his many kindnesses to us men and the gradual broadening of privileges under his direction. Apparently the rewards he has granted for merit have been construed as favoritism, but we—and among us are men who are doing the hardest work at this camp and who receive no special consideration—have never found cause to complain on this score. The treatment among the men is kindly and uniformly just.

"As regards punishments—we personally do not like them for ourselves or for our fellows, but we know there must be punishment for infractions of the rules. We know of no brutal punishment at Kilby Prison and, thank God, since Captain Harris became warden here the leash has been relegated to innocuous desuetude.

"Again we ask—what can be the purpose of the publication in The Journal. Surely it s not constructive. On the contrary it seems an attempt to destroy the harmony of an organization that is moving along like a well-oiled piece of machinery. As one of the most experienced prisoners said tonight, in the midst of his denunciation, 'It's a —— shame; this isn't like a penitentiary.' And, aside from our isolation, this is true.

"We trust, long as this is, you will give it space and permit us to thank the people of the state, the administration, and the officals here for the benefits we enjoy in what we believe is Amrica's least undesirable penitentiary.

"We white men, as a body, do not complain, but, on the contrary, are deeply grateful for we realize how much worse our lot might be. We denounce the publication in The Journal as false and unjust and decry the injury attempted to the local officals and to ourselves.

For the prisoners at Kilby Prison: By Charles L. Carman, Homer A. Carmack, E. N. Cochran, U. E. Dover and Homer Stoney, committee of prisoners.

**Have Entertainment**

Prior to the session at which the committee was selected to prepare and issue the statement, the musicians from Montgomery rendered a delightful program of vocal and instrumental music which was received by the convicts assembled in the dining hall for the occasion, with the most enthusiastic applause. The encores were many.

At the conclusion of the program Theo Lacy, a prisoner at Kilby, mounted the rostrum, saying he wished to make a statement. "We thank the guests for this most highly enjoyable entertainment," he said, "and we wish them every success." Then he added: "But there are others who also deserve our thanks—and yet are too often denied an open expression of the appreciation every man here feels in his heart. I refer to Captain Harris and the other officials. We are fortunate—so fortunate—in having a warden who is filled with human sympathy for the prisoners, and who, in a difficult position of responsibility, is always trying to make our lot more bearable. We owe him an expression of the thanks we feel. Let's give a cheer for Captain Harris, and make it bearty enough to bespeak our gratitude." The cheer was given with great heartiness, as was also another one for the entertainers. "You have certainly put joy in our hearts," said Lacy, turning to the musicians. "We thank you." This statement, it is understood, was prepared by Lacy some days ago, when the entertainment was first planned.

Lacy, then alluding to the published statement already referred to, stated the attack which it contained is unjust, declaring there was not a man within the hearing of his voice who could honestly condemn the treatment accorded the prisoners at Kilby. He then asked that all in favor of the present policy of conducting the prison to stand. Every prisoners promptly arose to his feet. When they had seated themselves, he then asked that all who had a "grouch" and who gave credence to the published statement appearing Friday afternoon, stand up. Every man kept his seat.

W. T. Terry, another prisoner, next said a few words. He declared the published statement was unjust, and especially an injustice to the warden. If any man had a grievance and would approach the warden in the right way and lay that grievance before him, the speaker said he was sure the warden would investigate and adjust it. There has never been a time, in the prison history of the state, he declared, when the men fared better than they do now. His statement like that of Lacy, was applauded. It was then that the committee which was charged with preparing and issuing the statement to the press denouncing the one published Friday, was chosen.

Warden Davis in a brief statement said to the men that the meeting was their meeting; that he was not there to make any reply, but to state that the first complaint he has received from the prisoners concerning their treatment, was contained in the statement published Friday afternoon.

## MURDER CHARGE DISMISSED AGAINST BARBOUR OFFICERS

**Shown That Negro Killed White Man Before Being Killed.**

CLIO, ALA., March 6.—Special to The Advertiser.—The charge of murder preferred by Sheriff W. M. Teal against Deputy Sheriff Lee Lucas, Officer H. C. Thompson, S. Mooneyham, constable, and W. E. Arrington, marshal of Clio, was dismissed at Clayton today after Circuit Solicitor T. M. Patterson, the County Solicitor W. H. Merrill spent a short time questioning state's witnesses. The solicitor announced that the evidence offered by the witnesses did not warrant further investigation and the case was therefore dismissed without a hearing.

The charge of murder grew out of a raid made by the officers for whiskey upon the premises of Henry Dickerson, a negro tenant who lived upon the place of A. N. Teal near Clio.

Upon the arrival of the officers, Dickerson immediately opened fire, killing Lehman Phillips the first shot he fired, and shooting Officer Thompson in the leg. Officers Arrington and Thompson killed Dickerson instantly.

## THE NEGRO IN COURT

During the last six months, the editor of this publication—the writer of these lines—has chanced to visit the courts of Birmingham—the Federal, State, Criminal and Civil departments. The study was interesting and the conditions at times alarming. Our business was to notice the disposition and attitude in Negro cases and especially the manner of the Negro and his conception of right and wrong. The first thing one would notice is the manner of the Negro on the witness stand and next the manner of lawyers in getting something out of Negro testimony that may serve as evidence. In a great majority of the cases the Negro in his blab-mouthed method, his tendency to know more than he knows, his foolish tactics of appealing to the court, oftentimes proves his undoing; when as a matter of fact, a straightforward expression may have meant his freedom, and if found guilty, certainly less punishment. We felt at times that certain persons testifying were too ignorant, too stupid and sometimes too stubborn to give evidence that would be sufficient for or against any cause at the bar, and yet jury and judge in most cases had to depend upon such evidence for their conclusions and judgment. It comes to this position: that Negroes get into too many frivolous things that must be settled by court trial and they are in them largely because of ignorance and a lack of contact with superior elements, or interested elements of both races. The more primitive class of Negro people are more in contact with white people than they are in association with advanced element of their own race, and in contact with white people they are busily engaged in some service where they are not likely to have the proper teaching and considerations from a civil viewpoint that they are entitled to in their ignorant state. Thus they become almost mindless, avaricious and easy to fire. We have criminals in court with no knowledge that they have committed a crime against their state or that they have disrupted in any way the happiness of society. There is a remedy.

The advanced element of the Negro people must see the wisdom and convert themselves to social service work and become more missionary at home and reach the humble member in the remotest section of city and community life. These conditions cannot be changed by court procedure; they cannot be remedied by the punishment that courts issue. The remedy must come in awakening the conscience of the individual that he may rise to self respect and self importance in order to feel the depth of crime and know the import of his act.

The false attitude of the Negro witness is at once discovered when he begins his testimony. This may be true with other races, but it is more easily discovered, apparently, in the Negro. It seems that he has a fixed position in which he is going to impress the court and all the appeals and advice from counsel has but little effect. In fact, the average witness, as we have noticed them, exercises but little mind, but opens up with an extreme amount of passion and pitiable nonsense. This is not what some might style as a vicious criticism, it is an exposure of facts with the hope that all of us may get together and make our people more intelligent and more sensible of right and wrong.

There are too many false notions in the heads of our people for any of us to be safe. Honest lawyers must be miserable and out of balance as long as their Negro witness is on the stand and especially is this true in criminal cases. There are many millions of things that our people could be helped in right in this community if we would invest more money in humanity and

The Negro in court as seen in Jefferson County makes an alarming situation and a very ugly picture. Less in foolish luxury.

Crime—1924. Alabama.

# GOVERNOR ORDERS GRAND JURY PROBE IN ALDRICH MUTINY

## Alabama Statutes Hold Death Penalty for Life Term Convicts Assaulting Officer With Intent to Kill; Property Damage Estimated at $25,000

Mutiny at Aldrich mine early Friday morning of 66 state convicts who surrendered to prison authorities late that night, will be investigated by a special grand jury which will be empaneled for that purpose.

Montgomery

On recommendation of L. A. Boyd, president and Roy L. Nolen, associate member of the state board of administration, Governor Brandon through Attorney General Harwell G. Davis, has requested Judge E. R. Lyman and Solicitor W. W. Wallace of the 18th judicial circuit which includes Shelby county to call together a special grand jury.

He asked that this be done in order that all the facts ascertained by the investigation now being conducted by prison officials, may be placed before the Shelby county inquisitorial body, and that such further investigation may be made by the grand jury as it may deem necessary. The special session of the grand jury will convene at Columbiana on Monday, January 28.

1-13-24

According to announcement by the state board of administration, a thorough investigation of the Aldrich mutiny is now in progress under the direction of Charles R. Davis, inspector for the convict department, assisted by Dr. F. F. Blair, state physician and inspector. Mr. Davis has been connected with the handling of state convicts for a number of years, as warden and in other capacities. The investigation will continue, it is announced, until all the facts have been ascertained.

**While the investigation has not been completed, it is stated that the facts so far developed show that some of the same convicts who were in the recent mutiny at Banner Mines, and who, it is declared have been transferred from prison to prison to prevent them stirring up trouble among other convicts, were leaders in the mutiny at Aldrich.**

**Damage $25,000.**

Damage to property resulting from the Aldrich mutiny, is estimated at around $25,000 which total does not include property loss to the state of several thousand dollars in addition.

The offense committed by the convicts who during the mutiny and while they were being subdued Friday night by prison officials, threw or attempted to throw dynamite at the officials, is said to be a very serious one. Under the Alabama law the penalty prescribed for a life term convict who is convicted of assaulting a prison officer with intent to kill or maim him, or conspires to kill or maim any such officer, is death. The penalty provided for convicts serving less than a life sentence and who are convicted of such an offense, is an additional term of imprisonment of not less than five nor more than 20 years.

So far it is stated the investigation at Aldrich implicates the following as being among those who used dynamite in an attempt on the lives of officials and in the destruction of property:

Montgomery

**Mutineers.**

W. D. Lavender, Montgomery, two to four years, grand larceny.

Dempsey Roach, Mobile, three to four years, assault to rob, also additional time for escape.

Ed Duggar, Jefferson county, 18 years, highway robbery, also an ex-convict.

1-13-24

James Robinson, Jefferson county, 10 years, manslaughter first degree.

Lewis Brown, Jefferson county, life, murder first degree.

Adonia Crusoe, Jefferson county, life, robbery.

Will Edwards, Montgomery county, 10 years, robbery, escaped and recaptured once.

Chas. Moore, alias, Colbert county, four to six years, grand larceny. This man is an ex-convict.

Ike Parham, Limestome county, 30 years. Attempted intercourse with girl 10 years old. Escaped and recaptured twice.

S. T. Summerlin, Crenshaw county, five to 10 years, assault to murder.

Waddell Sneed, Bibb county 15 years, murder second degree. This sentence for killing fellow inmate while serving other sentence.

Jesse Douglass, Geneva county, 10 years, manslaughter first degree.

Will Lewis, Mobile county, life, murder, first degree.

George Thurman, Jefferson county 20 years, burglary and grand larceny.

Humphrey Hogan, Colbert county 3 to four years, burglary.

Ellis Stewart, Jefferson county, 1 1-2 to 2 years, grand larceny, ex-convict 1920 2 1-2 to 5 years.

Theo Gains, alias, Jefferson county, two to three years, grand larceny.

Curtis Teague, Calhoun county 20 years murder second degree.

Bill Everett, Fayette county, 10 years, murder second degree.

Frank Coleman, Monroe, four to six years, burglary.

Tom Wiley, Lauderdale county, life murder first degree.

J. W. Carson, Escambia county one year and one day, grand larceny ex-convict from Texas pen and elsewhere.

King Sol James, Russell county, 10 years trying to wreck train.

**ALDRICH MINES IDLE.**

MONTEVALLO, ALA., Jan. 12.—By The Associated Press.—Aldrich mines scene of an explosive uprising of sixty-six state convicts yesterday and last night, tonight presented a silent aspect with no excitement apparent concerning the mutiny. Today was one of investigation, with official representatives of the state and of the mining company probing the situation.

The first statement of official nature given out during the day came near three o'clock this afternon when Convict Inspector C. R. Davis declared that no corporal punishment would be inflicted to the prisoners connected with the "strike" until an investigation had been held by the Shelby county court.

Summing up the findings of the investigation of authorities today, Mr. Davis said that the mutiny was without apparent reason—not a single complaint having been registered by a single prisoner confined at Aldrich.

Waddell Snead, negro, serving a fifteen year sentence, who had been in solitary confinement previously, and W. D. Lavendar, who was connected in the Banner mine mutiny last September were declared the leaders in the present affair by Mr. Davis.

"We were advised by Roy Nolen, associate member of the convict department, this afternoon that a special term of the Shelby county court would be called at the earliest possible moment and charges will be preferred against prisoners found involved," the inspector said.

**Damage Estimate.**

Although a more careful checkup in the property damage had been executed during the day, President D. A. Thomas of the mining company said that the amount did not exceed $30,000. He stated that resumption in the mining would again be begun as early as machinery could be repaired but added that it would take some forty days for such work.

No mention was made of "dog-houses" in the statement of the inspector, despite reports that the placing of three men in such places of solitary confinement on Thursday night had led to the seizing of the mine pit yesterday morning when the day-shift went to work.

Admittance within the prison stockade to question prisoners or to see the "dog-houses", however, was denied an Associated Pres repreentative today, as well as other members of the press on the scene.

Men who had been exonerated from leadership in the mutiny had been allowed freedom within the yard, Mr. Davis said.

Investigation of immediate nature into the affair had been apperently concluded this afternoon with Inspector Davis announcing that he was leaving the scene while Dr. F. F. Blair, state physician and assistant to Mr. Davis in the probe, returned to Montgomery tonight.

Officials today in discussing the entering of the mine last night by the party of eighteen men, reported that they found approximately forty of the convicts huddled together in an opening down the slope of the mine. Two rounds of fire from the guns of the party were all that were necessary, fired at random, before the men showed desire to surrender. None of the convicts were wounded, Dr. Blair said.

# TRAPPED CONVICTS HURL DYNAMITE AT ATTACKING GUARDS

## State Board of Administration Informed by Telephone That All is Over at 11:50 O'clock Friday Night

## ONLY INJURY IS NEGRO'S BIRDSHOT WOUNDED SHINS

## C, R, Davis, Flat Top Warden, Breaks Deadlock Which Began Yesterday

Following a desperate battle many feet underground at 11 o'clock Friday night, between prison officers and guards on the one hand and convicts on the other, the 60 odd mutineers at Aldrich mine were coralled and at midnight, all were locked securely in their cells.

Montgomery

Richmond

1-12-24

In the battle which occurred when C. R. Davis, warden at Flat Top, accompanied by three deputy wardens surprised a group of 29 prisoners, some 35 shots were exchanged between the officers and the convicts, the officials using shot-guns and the convicts hurling dynamite in lieu of the use of fire-arms.

Parties of officers led by Warden J. N. Jernigan of Aldrich, D. A. Thomas of Thomas and Weller, operators of the mine, and his partner, Mr. Weller, surprised other groups of prisoners who were also armed with dynamite but had no chance to use it when the officials coming up in the ear ordered them to hold up their hands.

This information was contained in a report by long distance telephone made at 11:50 o'clock Friday night from prison officials at Aldrich, to L. A. Boyd, president of the state board of administration and Roy L. Nolen, associate member of the board. The report stated that no one was injured with the exception of one negro convict who received a flesh wound on the shin.

**Damage Unestimated.**

Until engineers can make a thorough inspection, it is impossible it is stated to make an estimate of the damage done to the equipment in the interior of the mine by the mutinying convicts, but it is understood that it will be considerable. It was reported that the mutineers who had been in the mine since about 6:30 o'clock Friday morning, used all of the explosives provided for blowing down coal by the day shift, with the exception of the dynamite which they wielded as bombs when rushed by the officers late Friday night. Twisted rails on the lower part of the main slope told the story of the use to which the explosives had been put.

The officers accompanied by Mr. Thomas and Mr. Weller, entered the slope of the mine at a little before 11 o'clock Friday night, and as they proceeded several times fired their shotguns into the ground in order to convey to the mutineers the fact that they "meant business."

1-12-24

Before reaching the main workings, the party of officers changing tactics, divided and proceeded on their separate ways as quietly as possible so as to take the convicts by surprise.

**First Encounter.**

Warden Davis and his companions advanced in the direction of the double doors to the compartment leading into the main workings. Just as they reached the doors a convict was seen to open one of them and peer outside. Quickly Warden Davis and his men pushed their way through and leveling their shot-guns at the 29 convicts gathered just inside, ordered them to surrender.

The answer was a hail of lighted sticks of dynamite hurled by the convicts. There was series of explosions, a cloud of thick smoke arose, and into this cloud the officers fired shells loaded with bird-shot, as more dynamite hurtled toward them.

The supply of dynamite finally becoming exhausted, the convicts shouted their surrender. When the smoke had cleared away and stock was taken of the results, the fact was revealed that the only injury from the melee

was a flesh wound on the shin of a negro prisoner.

In the meantime Warden Jernigan and his party, also the guards headed by Mr. Thomas and Mr. Weller, rounded up the remainder of the mutineers whom they came upon from the rear in the man-way and other points from which there was no way of escape. The mutineers, who throughout their stay in the mine had made no attempt to parley with the officials who kept all outlets strongly guarded, were removed at once to the prison where they were promptly locked safely away in the cell-house.

**Three Break Away**

Sixty-three convicts were removed from the mine after the courageous action of officials was crowned with success Friday night. Of the original 66 prisoners who mutinied, three men, all negroes, slipped away from the mutineers during the day, and surrendered to guards.

A detailed report of the successful effort by officials to oust the mutineers, was made to Mr. Boyd and Mr. Nolen by long distance telephone, by Dr. F. F. Blair, physician-inspector of state prisons, who was dispatched to Aldrich early Friday to make an investigation of the situation on behalf of the board of administration immediately upon receipt at the capitol of the report of the mutiny.

A report giving details of the trouble was also telephoned by Warden Davis and Warden Jernigan. Warden Davis was also directed early Friday to go to Aldrich and render the warden there all assistance possible.

It is believed that the mutinying convicts hoped to make their way up the main slope of the mine which opens on the outside of the prison stockade, and thus make their escape. Several times during Friday, it is stated, convicts appeared at the lower end of the slope, but observing that the entrance was heavily guarded, they turned back.

**Object to Jernigan**

An unofficial report from Montevallo late Friday, was to the effect that earlier in the night the convicts had sent up word by telephone that they would stand their ground until Warden Jernigan was "fired" for keeping three convicts in "dog boxes" Thusrday night.

It was also reported that throughout the day when guards attempted to enter the mine they were stopped by explosions of dynamite. W. M. Weller, one of the owners of the mine, was reported as stating that operations would be resumed just as soon as necessary repairs could be made.

Prison officials at Aldrich stated that the mutiny came as a complete surprise. They said there had been no complaints from the prisoners and that heretofore they had not the slightest intimation or warning of what was afoot until the mutiny was actually precipitated.

According to reports reaching the state board of administration, 85 men went into the mine between 6:30 and 7 o'clock, Friday morning, to begin work as usual. Immediately after they entered, they announced to the inside deputy warden that no coal would be mined that day. Thereafter 19 of the 85 prisoners left the mine shaft, the other 66, including 12 white men, remaining below. News of the mutiny spread like an electric spark, and all entrances to the mine shaft were immediately placed under guard.

W. D. Lavender and Fred Cook, state convicts, who were among the leaders in the Banner mine mutiny which occurred last September, are thought by prison officials to have been the leaders in the mutiny which occurred at Aldrich mine, Friday. Lavender is serving a sentence for grand larceny, imposed by the Montgomery circuit court and Cook is serving a long sentence imposed by the Hale county circuit court following his conviction of assault to murder. They are said to be the only two men transferred from Banner to Aldrich who were implicated in the Aldrich mutiny. Reports from Aldrich late Friday night stated that other convicts who had no part in the mutiny were perfectly orderly throughout the day and night.

# CONVICT EARNING OF STATE IS HEAVY

## Close to Eight Thousand Dollars on Deposit to Credit of Alabama Prisoners.

More than $7,800 is on deposit at the state prisons to the credit of the 2,954 inmates of the penitentiary according to figure for January 1, 1924 made public from the office of Roy L. Nolen, associate member of the state board of administration Wednesday.

Figures of individual prisons show that the 463 inmates at Flat Top mines had $2,357.70 on deposit with the warden. The 166 inmates at Aldrick prison on which has just resumed operation have $262,10, the smallest figures.

On April 30, 1923, the largest amount ever to the credit of the prisoners was on deposit with the wardens. In that month $8,329.29 was credited to the 3,029 inmates confined in the penitentiary.

The larger portion of this money is from pay made by the convicts for extra work done at the mines and in the state's cotton mills. In a recent month, more than $4,500 was paid to convicts for extra work done and extra coal loaded.

Money is frequently being sent home to relatives and dependents of inmates, it is said. Other prisoners use part of their pay in purchasing soft drinks, candy, tobacco and the like from the prison stores operated by the state. Some of the individual prisoners have as much as $150 to $250 to their credit.

The number of prisoners at each of the prisons and the amount they had on deposit to the credit of their account on January 1, 1924, follows:

Aldrich, 166, $262.10, Banner, 473 833.10, Belle Ellen, 274, 548.49, Flat Top, 463, 2,357.70, Kilby, 736, 1,779.71

No. Four, 128, 278.95, River Falls, 181, 380.86, Speignor, 330, 1,088.00, Wetumpka, 203, 366.24.

**Total Inmates 2,954, Deposit $7.895.87.**

BIRMINGHAM, ALA. News

JAN 4 - 1924

# WHITE PRISONERS ARE ON INCREASE

## Negroes Are Losing Big Proportion Among Convicts In Alabama.

A larger proportion of white prisoners than ever are being committed to the Alabama penitentiary, according to figures compiled and made public Friday from the office of Roy L. Nolen, associate member of the state board of administration.

For the calendar year, which has just ended, out of the 1,040 new inmates, 490 were white males. This is attributed in part, to the large number of convictions for violation of prohibition statutes of the state. Approximately 35 per cent of the inmates being received in the penitentiary are convicted of this crime, it is said.

A comparison of figures of commitments for the 1921-22 fiscal year, and the 1923 calendar year, is as follows:

| | 1921-22 | 1923 |
|---|---|---|
| White males | 466 | 490 |
| Negro males | 681 | 503 |
| White females | 3 | 6 |
| Negro females | 36 | 41 |
| Total | 1,186 | 1,040 |

On Dec. 31, 1923, there were more than two negroes for every white inmate in the penitentiary. Whereas the commitments for 1923 showed that approximately half the commitments were white. On the last day of 1923 there were confined in the penitentiary the following inmates: White males 866, negro males 1,955; white females 9, negro females 124; total 2,954.

The number of commitments by white and colored for each of the months of 1923 follows:

| | White. | Negro. | Total. |
|---|---|---|---|
| January | 18 | 15 | 33 |
| February | 40 | 29 | 69 |
| March | 38 | 45 | 83 |
| April | 51 | 63 | 114 |
| May | 29 | 38 | 67 |
| June | 29 | 29 | 58 |
| July | 31 | 17 | 48 |
| August | 18 | 13 | 31 |
| September | 61 | 55 | 116 |
| October | 85 | 133 | 218 |
| November | 43 | 69 | 112 |
| December | 53 | 38 | 91 |
| Total | 496 | 544 | 1,040 |

# MORE WHITE PRISONERS ARE COMMITTED TO PEN

## Figures Show Many Sent Up During 1923 Were Convicted of Prohi Violations

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| Total | 496 | 544 |

# ALABAMA MINE CONVICTS BLOW UP MACHINERY

## Prisoners Are Strongly Entrenched and Defy Guards.

Montevallo, Ala., Jan. 11.—Sixty-six convicts employed on the day shift at the Thomas Weller coal mine at Aldrich, near here, are in mutiny and in control of the pit, it was reported here this afternoon. Stern measures are being used to oust the men, who are said to be strongly entrenched.

Fifty-four of the mutineers are negroes and two of the white convicts are said to have been among the number that participated in a mutiny at Banner mines, Jefferson county, last fall.

Reports reaching here are to the effect that the convicts yesterday caused considerable damage to machinery and tracks by the use of dynamite.

Crime-1924

Alabama.

# SEVEN NEGROES IN JAIL WILL HANG

## New Record Set by Administration in Jefferson County

BIRMINGHAM, ALA., Oct. 29.—With the conviction of Frank Owens, negro by a jury in the criminal division of circuit court seven negroes were confined in death cells in the county jail today, awaiting the fixing of dates on which they will pay with their lives on the gallows for crimes they have been convicted of committing.

Persons who have been connected with the sheriff's office for more than 15 years said that never before had there been seven condemned persons in the jail during the administration of any one sheriff. There are eight condemned negroes in the jail at present, but one is being held for safe keeping and will be executed in another city.

Of the seven negroes awaiting death on the gallows according to records in the warden's office, four were convicted for alleged axe assaults, two for highway robbery and one for murder. This number includes Pearl Jackson, negro, the first woman to have been sentenced to death in Jefferson county.

Owens convicted on a charge of highway robbery growing out of an attack on Richard Warner and J. D. Watkins is the second man to have been sentenced to death during the present term of criminal court, Emory Smith, charged with murder, having been given the death penalty less than two weeks ago.

# PRESENT CONVICT DEPARTMENT FACED BY NEW PROBLEMS

## Receipts on Increase; Much New Equipment Added at Kilby; Cotton Mill at Speigner Shows Profit

## CONVICT HIRE NOT AS PROFITABLE AS FORMERLY

## Farm Operations of State Show Big Profit for Year

1924

By Atticus Mullin.

An activity of the state government of Alabama which is necessary and which is always a problem is the caring for and working of those who transgress the laws and are sentenced to punishment for their transgressions. The convict board of Alabama is charged by law with the responsibility for housing, generally caring for and working these prisoners.

The convict board under the Brandon administration has faced new problems in dealing with the prisoners The equipping and maintenance of Kilby prison has fallen to their lot. The department has also begun the work of abolishing the convict lease system in Alabama and has taken over two coal mines and is now running these coal mines instead of leasing convicts to the owners of the mines.

During the two years 1923-1924 the convict department under the present administration has added $943,257.80 to its assets. This is made up mainly through the equipment of Kilby prison with mill machinery and supplies, paying the balance left on construction by the previous administration, the purchase of lands, new prison building at Speigner and other improvements.

When the present administration came into power, Kilby prison had been constructed but the mill equipment had not been added or paid for. There were also unpaid warrants left for the new administration to take care of and this has been done and the prison put on a business footing.

**Receipts Increase.**

Receipts of the convict department are steadily growing. The expenses of the department have also grown quite considerably. When two mines were taken over for operation by the state equipment had to be purchased, supplies bought, and the overhead expense of running these mines is now borne by the State instead of by the private companies as heretofore. This has naturally added to the pay roll of the convict department.

For the two year period 1921-1922 the convict department of Alabama had receipts amounting to $3,822,372.83. For the two years 1923-1924 the department had increased its receipts to $4,596,318.15. As stated the present convict department through the new operations of Kilby prison and two coal mines was compelled to increase its expenditures.

The expenditures of the convict department in 1921-1922 amounted to $3-252,133.44. The expenditures of the convict department in 1923-24 amounted to $4,654,610.94. The increase in expenses was brought about by investments and expense necessary to changing the system of working convicts in two mines and getting Kilby prison in operation.

The present convict department during its two years' tenure of office as stated, has added $943,257.80 in permanent improvements. It has inventoried property and unpaid accounts amounting to $569,815.63. All of this after there is stricken off the books of the department $105,308.68 for depreciation. The present department is the first to take depreciation into account.

The convict department as at present constituted has taken over the old department known as the Board of Control and Economy. The work of this old board is being done by the convict department at a saving to the state of approximately $10,000 per year in salaries and administrative expense.

In spite of the fact that the past two years have been disastrous to the cotton mill business generally, many mills closing down all over the country, the convict department has operated its cotton mill at Speigner prison and has amassed a profit of approximately $40,000 in the two years. Cotton goods have fallen off in price and but for this fact a much greater profit would have been shown. The State could not close down its mill as private operators have in many instances done because the convicts were there and had to be cared for any how.

**Earning Power Declines.**

The convict department has faced rapidly declining earning power of convicts. The department is operating so far as private companies are concerned under the terms of a contract which was drawn up in 1920 and which provides that the state shall be paid for hire of its convicts a sum monthly based on a sliding scale. The prices paid for the hire of convicts when the contract was originally drawn up was based on .85 1-2 cents per ton paid to free miners under the Lee and Big Seam scale. It is provided in the contract "the prices under this contract are to advance or decline on the same percentage as any advance or decline shall be made in the price per ton paid free miners as above indicated."

As showing how net revenues under this contract have declined with the decline in the coal business in the two years 1921-1922 the average amount paid from the hire of convicts was $1,711,538.80 while in 1923-1924 the average amount paid to the state was $1,2[illegible]. The decrease was the result of a decline in price per ton paid to free miners resulting from terms of the contract entered into in 1920 and the fewer number of convicts engaged in mining coal.

During 1924 land to the value of $100,000 carried as an asset of the convict department was sold to the Alabama Power company. This added to the receipts of the department but at the same time reduced the assets of the department.

The above is a brief accounting for the convict department of Alabama. It does not go into detail as to the farming operations of the department which have shown a big profit in 1924. However, the results of the farming operations from a financial standpoint are included in the financial statement of the department already given. Four or five columns could be written about the operations of this department and how it handles the problems which daily are faced but the space cannot be given it. The high spots of the convict department for the first two years of the present administration, however, are given.

# CONVICTS OF STATE SHOW PROFIT FOR YEAR OF $820,887

## Earnings From Flat Top Larger Than Any Other Prison; Speigner Made Earnings, Cotton Mill Shows Loss

## NUMBER FOUR PRISON FAILS TO PAY EXPENSES

## Shirt Factory at Kilby Loses About $10,000; Women's Institution Profitable

The annual report of the state board of administration, which operates the convict department of Alabama, shows that the department made net earnings for the state for the fiscal year ended September 30, 1924, amounting to $820,-887.89. The report of the department has been submitted to Goveror Brandon by Roy L. Nolen, associate member.

The report sets out in detail the receipts and disbursements for each of the activities of the department. The financial showing of each mine, prison, farm, mill and lumber camp is detailed.

Aldrich mines during the year earned for the state, $63,795.83 The total revenue derived from Aldrich during the year was $109,429.59, while the total disbursements were $45,633.83.

An earning of $192,665.50 was made at Banner mines during the year. The total expense of operating at Banner mine was $104,264.50 while the total revenues amounted to $304,400.00. The principal expense at Banner mines was in feeding and clothing and giving medical attention to the convicts which amounted to $69,000.

Belle Ellen prison and mine earned during the year net $111,114.60. The total revenue from Belle Ellen prison and mines amounted to $371,307.60. The total expense of operating the mine amounted to $260,193.00.

Flat Top prison and mine made a net earning during the year for the state amounting to $254,391.11. The expense of operation at Flat Top amounted during the year to $267,-870.20, while the total revenues amounted to $522,261.31. The expense at Flat Top of feeding, clothing and giving medical attention to the prisoners who numbered 470 on an average, was approximately $75,000.

Number Four prison, which is the farm located near Montgomery, had an excess of expenditures over revenue in the year of $11,925.36. The total revenue was $57,061.33, while the total expense of operation was $68,986.69.

Wetumpka prison, which is operated for women practically exclusively, had a net earning during the year of $6,858.92. There is a tailor shop operated at this prison, which is a revenue getter. The expense of operation of the prison amounted to $138,507.28, while the revenues of the prison were $145,366.20.

Speigner prison earned a net revenue of $68,319.91 during the year, the revenue being $189,421.84, and the expenses $121,101.93. This is exclusive of the cotton mill at Speigner.

The River Falls prison turned in a net revenue during the year of $65,-023.45. The expense of operation amounted to $43,222.78. The receipts amounted to $108,246.23.

The cotton mill at Speigner prison during the year lost $44,108.15. The disbursements amounted to $595,386.38, while the revenue was $551,278.23.

Kilby Prison dairy had a net earning during the year of $4,006.95. The receipts amounted to $22,401.53, while the disbursements were $18,394.58.

The livestock and swine department at Kilby earned $3,307.17 during the year, the receipts being $7,594.65, and the disbursements $4,287.48.

Kilby Prison showed a net earning during the year of $83,466.30. The expense of operation amounted to $213,-677.98 while the receipts are shown as $297,144.28.

The Kilby Prison cotton mills earned $175,982.45 during the year, the receipts being $805,128.00 and the disbursements $629,145.55.

The Kilby shirt factory showed a deficit during the year of $10,441.15. The receipts amounted to $83,902.94 while the expenses amounted to $94,-344.09.

The financial statement for the Montgomery office of the board shows a total expense during the year of $143,860.87 with receipts of $1,850. It is through the Montgomery office that all expenditures for court costs, traveling expenses, salaries, and prohibition law informers are paid. For instance $20,250 was paid out in 1924 to those who turned up and succeeded in convicting violators of the prohibition laws.

# COUNTY RENEWS LEASE OF CONVICTS

## Depository for County Funds Also Awarded at Meeting of Board of Revenue

Contract for lease of Montgomery convicts to the Alabama By-Products company, of Birmingham, was renewed by the county board of revenue Monday for 1925, the company making the only bid.

There are approximately 75 long term convicts leased to the company mines, the county receiving $25 per month for each man, exclusive of all

other expenses, including transportation. For short term convicts, or those sentenced from 30 days to six months, the county received $18 per month per man, according to the contract.

In renewing the bid, W. A. Gibson, manager of the company, commended the efficient work of J. W. Heustess, clerk of the board, and Henry N. Hughes, clerk of the circuit court, in business dealings.

The Alabama Bank and Trust company again made the highest bid for a depository of county funds, with interest on the daily balance average, computed monthly, at 3 per cent per annum. Bond in the sum of $100,000 is required.

C. A. Pickett was re-elected one of the county surveyors by the board, for another year.

L. D. Rouse appeared before the board and urged action in dealing with the reckless driving menace of Montgomery county highways. He emphasized the danger and the large number of cars to be seen on the highways at night without lights. The board discussed advisability of employing additional motorcycle men to cope with the situation. Action however, was deferred until a later meeting. The board adjourned until Monday, December 29.

# SMALL DECREASE SHOWN IN NUMBER OF STATE CONVICTS

## Prisoners on Hand at End of Fiscal Year 27 Less Than in 1923; 1,127 Received During 1924

Of the 1,127 prisoners committed to Alabama state prisons during the fiscal year ending September 30, 1924, 68 were only 30 years of age or under; 182 ranging in age from 26 to 30 years; 293 from 21 to 25 and 206, 20 years old and under that age. Of the total number committed 560 were white men and only two were white women. The total included 317 negro men and 49 negro women.

These figures are contained in statistical information prepared in the office of Roy L. Nolen, associate member of the state board of administration, which in the form of an annual report, has been submitted by the board to Governor W. W. Brandon. This report shows that on October 1, 1923, there were on hand in the several state penitentiaries and prison camps, a total of 2,926 convicts; that 1,127 were received in state prisons from jails of the several counties of the state during the fiscal year just closed; that during the same fiscal year, ending October 30, 1924, 28 escaped convicts were recaptured, paroles of 40 prisoners were revoked and that 445 were received from temporary parole.

The report shows also that during the fiscal year just closed, 736 prisoners were discharged. 358 were paroled. temporary paroles were granted to 454, 13 cases were reversed, 29 prisoners escaped, 70 died from all causes, three were paroled into the hospital for the insane at Tuscaloosa, and four were paroled into the hospital for the insane at Mount Vernon. There were on hand in all state prisons and camps, on September 30, 1924, a total of 2,899 prisoners.

**Jefferson Leads List**

Jefferson county, having the largest population of any county in the state, contributed 126 prisoners to the sum total committed to the state prison during the fiscal year ending September 30, the largest number of prisoners committed from any one county. Pickens and Dale tied for the lowest number, with two each. Total of 49 prisoners were committed to the state penitentiary within the year from Montgomery county, and 48 were committed from Mobile.

Offense against the law of which the greatest number of persons were convicted and sentenced to terms in the penitentiary, during the year, was violation of the prohibition law, 468 being sent up to serve prison sentences following conviction on that charge; 136 were sentenced for grand larceny, 119 for burglary, 26 for murder in the first degree, and 77 for manslaughter. Twenty-nine prisoners committed to the penitentiary during the last fiscal year here under sentence of life imprisonment, 36 for 10 years, and 18 for 20 years. Total of determinate sentence prisoners committeed was 215, and of indeterminate 912.

**Detailed Report Given**

The report shows in detail counties from which prisoners on hand on September 30, 1924, were received, the number in state prison at that time from each county, and other statistical information similar to that already stated regarding prisoners committed during the fiscal year just ended. This information shows among other interesting facts, that 177 are serving second sentences, 21 third sentences, and four fourth sentences. The 2,899 prisoners on hand September 30, 1924, were distributed among the various prisons and prison camps as follows: Aldrich, 190; Banner, 371; Belle Ellen 219; Flat Top, 504; Kilby, 769; Number Four, 65; River Falls, 165; Speigner, 389; Wetumpka, 212; also at that time, 15 convict "trusties" were employed at the state capitol as janitors and in other like capacities.

On September 30, 1924, it is shown that 1,148 prisoners were employed in mining coal, 145 in saw mill work, 367 in cotton mills, 267 in the state shirt factory, 25 in dairy work, 67 in the state underwear factory, and 15 were employed at the state capitol; those employed as flunkies, at farming, or who were in hospital and those who were aged and infirm, numbered altogether 781 and that 84 were under treatment for tuberculosis at the state prison anti-tuberculosis camp. The report states in detail, the name of each prisoner who died during the year, the county in which conviction occurred, date of death, prison at which death occurred, and the cause, in each instance.

# JOHN MILTON, SOCIETY AND THE COURT

By this time every reading individual in the State of Alabama has had opportunity to read the story of a crime, the darkest and most gruesome in the history of Jefferson County, laid at the door of John Milton, a Negro convict.

A brief expression of the case reveals the fact that nearly four months ago John Milton, then a prisoner on the county road, attacked a white woman and struck down an innocent baby in her arms and left the State until his capture a month ago in the State of Chio. Milton, according to testimony, made many statements with respect to his position in the matter and how he came to such savage attack, and expressed as a reason that he was drinking corn liquor freely and was about drunk at the time.

Milton is a Negro man of tender age, that is, he would be considered a man between 25 and 30 years, if not younger—just at the period of his life when constructive and systematic thinking should begin, and at a point in his existence where society should be able to depend upon him as a profitable and useful product. He was already in the custody of the law, and serving a term.

Milton is an ignorant man. He had poor contact, no training, no encouragement, and he developed his animal passion to a degree uncontrolled by society and the law. He is to leave the world as he came into it—ignorant of what his birth meant, ignorant to the godly principles of humanity and perverted to the lowest ebb of society.

The law has taken its course. Justice through the courts has been vindicated and Milton is to pay the death penalty. With the evidence lodged against him no other decision was expected. Milton was lucky under certain rules to have been able to reach the courtroom and have a lawful trial. Jefferson County and the law officers of this district are to be congratulated for the manner in which they handled the case in making it one of court procedure ratner than submitting it to mob rule.

Under the decision of the jury and the orders of the court we may count John Milton no more, and he will meet the fate that others have met who traveled the same road. The question arises, how many more characters have we of this kind stalking around in the community, destroying peace and creating grief among satisfied and comfortable people? And what is the cause of all this? Where is the remedy? We find that criminals are not confined to race, they are not designated by color; they are not of any particular section or place; many thousands of them are yet alive among us and the cost to society is more than can be estimated. It is society's charge. It is a duty of the law-abiding people to clarify the situation.

This State will not free itself of such enemies and criminals as John Milton until it recognizes the fact that no people are safe in ignorance and superstitution. The incarceration and subjecting human life to corporal punishment is no cure for crime. It sometimes breeds crime. Milton says he was escaping for the fear of the lash and came into contact with this innocent woman and child. Milton was trying to escape what he called an unnecessary punishment. He was ignorant of the wishes of society. He had little human passion. He was without soul and heart culture. The great State of Alabama is absolutely responsible, and while we do away with the worthless form of John Milton, we only touch or peep at the cause of his crime. Black, as he is, defiled as he is, criminally inclined as has been proved, he is no more to be charged than the civilization in which he exists and the opportunity granted him to be civilized.

Certainly John Milton should hang; but in hanging John Milton and others of his kind, whether they be white or black, society cannot escape its responsibility. How can the church escape its place in the life of this man? John Milton is just one big example of the lack of human consideration, and because of it the fairest of the fair—womanhood—has been made to suffer and an innocent child wiped out of existence.

There is a cure. The State and the nation must turn attention to the training of men and women; our churches must give to the public more missionaries and more Christian service; our social service organizations must find themselves working among the people who are forgotten and untrained.

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that Board of ... the day of ... running away from a convict camp, ... Revines, ... noon ... Ith ... Life of ... Montgomery, ... where he was working as a trusty. He was ... Collins, ... alleged ... and ... 1925. The right is ... to reject any and all bids or parts thereof.

J. W. HEUSTESS.
Asst Labor Agent.

# MOTHER IDENTIFIES NEGRO AS SLAYER OF HER BABY

**Black Faces Birmingham Jury On Felonious Attack Charge**

BIRMINGHAM, ALA., Dec. 1.—Mrs. Blaney Collins took the stand here today ... and identified ... Collins. Milton is accused ... the woman and ... with an axe.

At the opening ... of the trial Milton withdrew a plea ... of insanity entered ... when he was ... arraigned ... and entered a plea of guilty. He denied that

**John Milton claimed that at the time of the attack he was drunk on corn liquor. He was a prisoner. Where did he get the liquor? Are there other responsible parties?**

other expenses, including transportation. For short term convicts, or those sentenced from 30 days to six months, the county received $18 per month per man, according to the contract.

In renewing the bid, W. A. Gibson, manager of the company, commended the efficient work of J. W. Heustess, clerk of the board, and Henry N. Hughes, clerk of the circuit court, in business dealings.

The Alabama Bank and Trust company again made the highest bid for a depository of county funds, with interest on the daily balance average, computed monthly, at 3 per cent per annum. Bond in the sum of $100,000 is required.

C. A. Pickett was re-elected one of the county surveyors by the board, for another year.

L. D. Rouse appeared before the board and urged action in dealing with the reckless driving menace of Montgomery county highways. He emphasized the danger and the large number of cars to be seen on the highways at night without lights. The board discussed advisability of employing additional motorcycle men to cope with the situation. Action however, was deferred until a later meeting. The board adjourned until Monday, December 29.

# SMALL DECREASE SHOWN IN NUMBER OF STATE CONVICTS

## Prisoners on Hand at End of Fiscal Year 27 Less Than in 1923; 1,127 Received During 1924

Of the 1,127 prisoners committed to Alabama state prisons during the fiscal year ending September 30, 1924, 68 were only 30 years of age or under; 182 ranging in age from 26 to 30 years; 293 from 21 to 25 and 206, 20 years old and under that age. Of the total number committed, 599 were white men and only two were white women. The total included 517 negro men and 49 negro women.

These figures are contained in statistical information prepared in the office of Roy L. Nolen, associate member of the state board of administration, which in the form of an annual report, has been submitted by the board to Governor W. W. Brandon. This report shows that on October 1, 1923, there were on hand in the several state penitentiaries and prison camps, a total of 2,926 convicts; that 1,127 were received in state prisons from jails of the several counties of the state during the fiscal year just closed; that during the same fiscal year, ending October 30, 1924, 28 escaped convicts were recaptured, paroles of 40 prisoners were revoked and that 445 were received from temporary parole.

The report shows also that during the fiscal year just closed, 736 prisoners were discharged. 358 were paroled, temporary paroles were granted to 454, 13 cases were reversed, 29 prisoners escaped, 70 died from all causes, three were paroled into the hospital for the insane at Tuscaloosa, and four were paroled into the hospital for the insane at Mount Vernon. There were on hand in all state prisons and camps, on September 30, 1924, a total of 2,899 prisoners.

### Jefferson Leads List

Jefferson county, having the largest population of any county in the state, contributed 126 prisoners to the sum total committed to the state prison during the fiscal year ending September 30, the largest number of prisoners committed from any one county. Pickens and Dale tied for the lowest number, with two each. Total of 49 prisoners were committed to the state penitentiary within the year from Montgomery county, and 48 were committed from Mobile.

Offense against the law of which the greatest number of persons were convicted and sentenced to terms in the penitentiary, during the year, was violation of the prohibition law, 468 being sent up to serve prison sentences following conviction on that charge; 136 were sentenced for grand larceny, 119 for burglary, 26 for murder in the first degree, and 77 for manslaughter. Twenty-nine prisoners committed to the penitentiary during the last fiscal year here under sentence of life imprisonment, 36 for 10 years, and 18 for 20 years. Total of determinate sentence prisoners committeed was 215, and of indeterminate 912.

### Detailed Report Given

The report shows in detail counties from which prisoners on hand on September 30, 1924, were received, the number in state prison at that time from each county, and other statistical information similar to that already stated regarding prisoners committed during the fiscal year just ended. This information shows among other interesting facts, that 177 are serving second sentences, 21 third sentences, and four fourth sentences. The 2,899 prisoners on hand September 30, 1924, were distributed among the various prisons and prison camps as follows: Aldrich, 190; Banner, 371; Belle Ellen 219; Flat Top, 504; Kilby, 769; Number Four, 65; River Falls, 165; Speigner, 389; Wetumpka, 212; also at that time, 15 convict "trusties" were employed at the state capitol as janitors and in other like capacities.

On September 30, 1924, it is shown that 1,148 prisoners were employed in mining coal, 145 in saw mill work, 367 in cotton mills, 267 in the state shirt factory, 25 in dairy work, 67 in the state underwear factory, and 15 were employed at the state capitol; those employed as flunkies, at farming, or who were in hospital and those who were aged and infirm, numbered altogether 781 and that 84 were under treatment for tuberculosis at the state prison anti-tuberculosis camp. The report states in detail, the name of each prisoner who died during the year, the county in which conviction occurred, date of death, prison at which death occurred, and the cause, in each instance.

# JOHN MILTON, SOCIETY AND THE COURT

By this time every reading individual in the State of Alabama has had opportunity to read the story of a crime, the darkest and most gruesome in the history of Jefferson County, laid at the door of John Milton, a Negro convict.

A brief expression of the case reveals the fact that nearly four months ago John Milton, then a prisoner on the county road, attacked a white woman and struck down an innocent baby in her arms and left the State until his capture a month ago in the State of Ohio. Milton, according to testimony, made many statements with respect to his position in the matter and how he came to such savage attack, and expressed as a reason that he was drinking corn liquor freely and was about drunk at the time.

Milton is a Negro man of tender age, that is, he would be considered a man between 25 and 30 years, if not younger—just at the period of his life when constructive and systematic thinking should begin, and at a point in his existence where society should be able to depend upon him as a profitable and useful product. He was already in the custody of the law, and serving a term.

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NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that Board of ... Revenue will ... noon ... Gomery ... 1925. The right is ... ject any and all bids ...

J. W. HEUSTESS,
Ind. Labor Agent.

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BIRMINGHAM, ALA., Dec. 1.—Mrs. Blaney Collins took the stand here today in the trial of Milton, negro, charged with the alleged ... and identified him as the ... eight months old daughter of her ... Collins. Milton is accused ... the woman and child with ... axe.

At the opening of the trial Milton withdrew a plea of insanity entered when he was ... guilty. He denied that ...

Crime — 1924.

Arizona.

# NEGRO MURDERER OF STUDENT HANGED

## Suspected of Four Other Killings; Hated White Race.

Florence, Ariz., June 20.—William E. Ward, negro, was hanged at dawn this morning at the state prison here for the murder of Ted Grosh, Arizona university student in Orta county, December 26.

Because of the intense feeling against Ward immediately following his arrest, he was tried in Florence. Ward was convicted on April 15, the jury returning a verdict in six minutes.

Following his conviction and confession here, he attempted to gain his freedom by attempting to kidnap and hold in his cell two women missionaries who were calling on him. One of the women sustained severe injuries. Fellow convicts in the prison, rushed to their rescue and were prevented from killing Ward only by the intervention of the superintendent of the prison.

Phoenix officers suspected Ward also of the slaying of Mrs. Alma Boudreau, whose body was found in a school yard at Phoenix, and additional evidence convicted him with the slaying of Duncan Waller and Ruth Tucker, near Memphis, Tenn., January 27, 1923, and of Obe Spencer, near Memphis on May 23, 1923.

Blame for his criminal career was laid by Ward on the white race, which he hated since seeing the burning at the stake of six negroes by a mob in Texas several years ago.

Crime—1924.

Arizona.

# NEGRO PAYS PENALTY FOR BRUTAL MURDER

Florence, Ariz., June 20.—William B. Ward, negro, was hanged at dawn this morning at the state prison here for the murder of Ted Grosh, Arizona university student.

Ward was convicted of one of the most brutal murders ever perpetrated in the state.

Grosh was slain on December 26, while riding in an automobile with Miss Maxine McNelly. Ward stopped their car, stepped on the running board and fired a bullet into the head of Grosh, killing him instantly. He then forced Miss McNelly from the car and to accompany him to an abandoned mining tunnel, where he attacked her and fired two shots into her body. She eventually recovered and was a witness against Ward.

After his conviction and confinement here, Ward tried to gain his freedom by attempting to kidnap and hold in his cell two women missionaries who were calling on him. One of the women sustained severe injuries as he attempted to force her into his cell, there to be held until he was promised his freedom. Fellow convicts, attracted by the screams of the women, rushed to their rescue and were prevented from killing Ward only by the intervention of R. B. Sims, superintendent. Ward was confined in the prison hospital for several days following his beating by the convicts.

Blame for his criminal career was laid by Ward on the white race, which he said, burned in his memory a hatred for Caucasians when he witnessed the burning at the stake of six negroes by a mob in Paris, Texas, several years ago.

Ward spent his last days in a solitary cell and these were marked by his religious devotion. He read for hours daily from a Bible.

The gallows trap was sprung at 5:12 a. m., and Ward was pronounced dead after 14 minutes. Thirty minutes later his body was buried in the prison burial grounds.

Composedly and with a steady step Ward mounted the stairway.

W. H. and George Grosh, father and brother of Ted, saw the execution, with Hal McNelly, brother of Ted's girl companion who was wounded after Ted had been slain.

# Man Who Saw Six Burn Is Hanged

## Gives This as Reason for His Hatred of White People.

FLORENCE, Ariz., June 23.—William B. Ward was hanged at dawn Friday at the state prison here for the murder of Ted Grosh, an Arizona University student.

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Blame for his criminal career was laid by Ward on the white race, which, he said, burned in his memory a hatred for Caucasians when he witnessed the burning at the stake of six Negroes by a mob in Paris, Texas, several years ago.

The request of Ted Grosh's father to spring the death trap was denied.

## NEGRO HANGS FOR MURDER.

### Said He Hated White Race Because He Saw Six Negroes Burned by Mob

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Crime—1924.

Arkansas.

# CONVICT LABOR FOR GAIN IS CONDEMNED

## Arkansas Labor Federation Makes Some Suggestions.

PARAGOULD, Ark., May 6.—The third day of the state session of the Arkansas Federation of Labor began this morning with the same lively interest that has characterized the sessions in Paragould since the event opened Monday morning in the A. O. U. W. Hall. President Green continued to preside over the deliberations of the assembly with Secretary Treasurer Thackrey at the desk keeping tab on the proceedings.

This morning Rev. J. B. Evans, pastor of the First Methodist Church, delivered the invocation and the delegates soon got thoroughly intot heir work of the day after President Green announced the order of business.

The first part of this morning's session was devoted to hearing the reports of various committees. These reports dealt with matters largely of a routine nature but revealed active thought on the part of the delegates constituting the various bodies.

Yesterday, following the address delivered by F. E. Scoville, manager of the Arkansas Light and Power Company, who entertained the visitors with appropriate remarks, the delegates, upon proposal from the chair, elected E. I. McKinley, Secretary Treasurer Thackrey and C. C. Tipson as a committee to offer recommendations with reference to handling of state convict labor.

**Report on Convict Labor.**

This committee this morning was made permanent and authorized to work in conjunction with the legislative committee to achieve the ends in view.

The committee, after considering the subject since yesterday, reported suggestions as follows: First, that our state prisons are intended as places of reformation as well as punishment, with especial emphasis upon the fact that their mission is to reform the individuals.

Second, that every element of private profit be eliminated from the work of the convicts, such as working them through contract arrangements and such other processes that have proved undesirable.

Third, that provisions be made for the state to work the convicts on the roads and highways of the state in building and repairing those thoroughfares where such work is not being performed by contract. Under this suggestion the convicts are to be solely under the supervision of the county or district utilizing their labor.

Also it was recommended that provisions be made for the establishment of factories for the making of road materials such as operating gravel plants, also plants for the making of clothing and shoes and such other articles necessary for the use of the prisoners exclusively. The suggestion opposes the operation of factories for the production of goods for private sale.

Public spirited men and women are to be enlisted to work to the end of returning the convicted individuals to their homes after they have completed their sentences and re-establish them in society, making useful men and women of them. It was further recommended that trained men and women be placed in charge of the penal institutions that proper treatment may be accorded the inmates.

**Tax Measure Discussed.**

Following the morning session the delegates accepted an invitation from the women of the First Baptist Church to partake of a dinner served in the Nettles location, corner of Pruet and Court streets. The delegates attended this feast in a body and expressed themselves as being delighted with the very agreeable manner in which they were entertained.

The session which convened this afternoon at 1:30 o'clock was devoted to the discussion of tax measures, state, county and income. This discussion was announced to be of a general nature with perhaps some stress laid upon the fact that tax dodgers are largely responsible for most of our tax ills.

The constitution of the state federation also was discussed at length this afternoon, preceding the election of officers for the following year. It was predicted that the election of officers would not be reached before tomorrow. The election of officers will be one of the last items of business.

H. W. Applegate of Jonesboro, who is a candidate for attorney general of Arkansas, was invited to address the delegates this afternoon at 1:30 o'clock. He spoke about 15 minutes, in which he set out his candidacy and touched upon other matters that proved interesting to his hearers.

**Entertainment For Delegates.**

C. C. Lipton of Little Rock, who has been very kind in assisting the press in its report of the session, said this afternoon that he likely would return to Little Rock tonight on account of urgent business demanding his presence in that city. Mr. Tipton is identified with the state labor department. In event the session holds over until tomorrow, which is quite likely, a special programme will be tendered the delegates at the First Methodist Church tomorrow evening. The local band, assisted by other local individuals, has prepared a special entertainment offering of much interest.

The convention has proved to be a very successful one, and the delegates have been free to express themselves as being delighted with the manner in which they are being entertained.

During yesterday's session, messages were received from Senator Caraway and Congressman Reed of the Sixth Arkansas District, stating that they heartily approved the adoption of Senate bill No. 2646 and House bill No. 7358. These measures are designed to curb the practice of the employment of child labor, which is generally considered as having developed to a point where specific legislation is required to save the tots from the merciless grind of commerce.

The banquet tendered the delgates last evening following a drive over the city was a most enjoyable affair and was largely attended. The feast was for the delegates, union men and their families. The spread was very attractively arranged in the Nettles location and proved to be one of the most interesting social affairs of the state session.

Crime—1924.

Arkansas.

# THIRD NEGRO IN ATTACK GIVEN LIFE SENTENCE

## Johnnie Clay Convicted of Murder at Van Buren.

VAN BUREN, Ark., March 11.—Johnnie Clay, 15-year-old negro, was convicted of murder in the first degree by a jury here late today in connection with the death of Mrs. Effie Latimer, who was assaulted and killed to death in her home near here last Dec. 28. The jury recommended [illegible] Clay and two negroes, William Bettis, and Spurgeon Huck, are under death sentences in connection with the attack on Mrs. Latimer. Their cases are pending on appeal to the supreme court.

Clay came to trial today after the state's attorney had declined to permit him to enter a plea of guilty to second degree murder. Little difficulty was experienced in the selection of the jury and the examination of witnesses was brief. The jury deliberated half an hour.

Clay was the principal witness for the state in the trials of Bettis and Huck, who, Clay asserted, forced him to accompany them to the Latimer home and stand watch while they entered the house.

Conviction
Appeal
3-12-24

LITTLE ROCK ARK. GAZETTE
JUNE 12, 1924

# NEGROES ARRESTED IN WHIPPING CASE

## Deny Any Knowledge of Beating Administered to Benton Boy.

Four more negroes—two men and two women—were arrested yesterday by members of the sheriff's force in connection with the whipping administered to Milton Childers, 16-year-old Benton boy, Monday night, bringing the total held for the whipping to seven. Although the negroes were questioned yesterday, none admitted any knowledge of the affair.

Those taken into custody yesterday are Coon Luster, alias Luster Adams, and his wife, Victoria; M. Piggie and Savannah Bloodsaw. Those arrested Tuesday are Watson and Alfred Bledsoe and Julius James. One of the negroes was identified by the boy yesterday as a member of the attacking party.

Major James A. Pitcock of the detective department, said yesterday that he had talked to the four last arrested, and that they denied knowing anything about the affair.

Police and deputy sheriffs believe the boy was whipped following trouble with a negro at a road camp several days before the assault. The boy is said to have had an argument with a negro and that the negro was stopped by a white man as he was approaching the boy with a knife. It is believed the negro and his friends planned the whipping.

# SLAYER OF NEGRO GETS SENTENCE OF 21 YEARS

## Youth of 20 and Accessories Sent to Jail.

MORRILTON, Ark., Dec. 18.—A sentence of 21 years in the penitentiary on a charge of second degree murder was given Earl Hudson, white youth about 20 years of age, who was found guilty of the killing of Lad Thomas, negro, at a special session of the Conway County Circuit court here Thursday afternoon. Third Bratley, white youth about 14 years of age, who was also charged with the killing, pleaded guilty and submitted to the mercy of the court immediately after the jury had rendered a verdict against Hudson, and was sentenced to five years in the state reform school and 16 years in the state penitentiary.

Conviction
Appeal

Hudson and Bartley were arrested and placed in jail for the killing about two weeks ago. Lad Thomas, negro, about 40 years of age, their victim, was found by two boys from here who had stopped at his home while out hunting. He had been shot in the back with a shotgun, and was found lying face downward across a cot. According to the boys, they had killed Thomas about two days before his body was discovered.

The boys gave robbery as their motive for the killing. It was claimed by one of them that when they entered the Thomas home, which is about two miles southwest of Morrilton, and demanded him to throw up his hands he reached for his gun and one of them fired, killing him instantly.

12-19-24

The trial of Hudson was begun here Wednesday morning. An effort was made by attorneys for Hudson to prove him insane and about 15 witnesses for the defense testified as to peculiar actions they had observed about Hudson which caused them to believe he was insane.

Bartley, who was charged with the killing with Hudson, was sentenced to five years in the reform school and 16 years in the penitentiary, with the understanding that sentence in the pen would be suspended pending good behavior while serving the sentence at the reform school.

Crime—1924.

Arkansas.

# AX MURDER CASE ENDS AFTER 4 CONVICTIONS

## Geo. Flake Withdraws Fourth Appeal, Accepts 15 Years.

CONWAY, Ark., March 11.—Concluding a long and devious course of litigation which included four trials four convictions and four appeals to the supreme court, the case of George Flake, ax murderer, was ended today under agreement between circuit court and defendant's counsel by which he accepts 15 years' imprisonment and ends an appeal now pending from the circuit court sentence of 19 years.

It was also agreed to allow Flake to remain under his present bond of $7,000 until July 31, when his term will be started. Flake's case reached court soon after the killing of Wallace Wilson, his brother-in-law, in October, 1921. Insanity was pleaded in his defense and he was sent to the state hospital for eight weeks' observation by Dr. C. C. Kirk, who was then superintendent. Dr. Kirk pronounced him subject to some mental affliction, temporary in its nature, and on the following July convicted him of first degree murder and pronounced sentence to life imprisonment.

This conviction was set aside by the supreme court on the ground of improper instructions to the jury, which was the ground also assigned by the supreme court for two subsequent reversals of the lower court's action. Flake for the fourth time was convicted at the recent January term and his appeal was pending when the agreement was reached.

Monroe Flake, father of the defendant, pleaded for clemency, as the death of Wilson has forced him to care for Wilson's widow and three dependent children. Wilson's widow is also said to have contracted tuberculosis.

Suspension of sentence was granted in order that Flake might assist in partially completing a farm crop before his term is started.

## NEGROES ELECTROCUTED.

**Spurgeon Ruck and Will Bettis Protest Their Innocence.**

LITTLE ROCK, Ark., June 27.—Spurgeon Ruck and Will Bettis, Crawford County negroes, were electrocuted at the penitentiary walls early today. They were convicted of killing Mrs. Effie Latimer on her home near Van Buren December 28. Both men protested their innocence to the last.

Crime—1924. Florida.

## FLORIDA CONVICT LEASING ABOLISHED; ALSO LASHING

**Law Doing Away With Both Goes Into Effect Now**

TALLAHASSEE, FLA., Dec. 31.—Leasing of convicts to private interests become unlawful in Florida after midnight tonight under provision of the law enacted by the 1923 legislature, which also abolished the lash in convict camps in this state.

Passage of the act was the outgrowth of a legislative investigation of the death in a Dixie county lumber camp of Martin Tabert, a North Dakota youth who had been arrested here by the sheriff of Leon county for stealing a ride on a train.

It was developed during the investigation into the case that the superintendent of the Putnam Lumber Company had entered into an alleged agreement with Sheriff J. R. Jones of Leon county to pay him a bonus of $20 for every prisoner he sent to the company's Dixie county camp. Sheriff Jones was removed from office by the governor as a result of these disclosures. Judge B. F. Willis of the Leon county court, also was displaced.

# BOY CONFESSES TO KILLING PARENTS AND TWO SISTERS

**Killed Sisters Year Ago in Decatur, Ga., and Murdered Parents Tuesday; Maintains Calm During Recital**

**ATTITUDE SHOWS YOUTH AS RELIGIOUS FANATIC**

**Frank McDowell Indicates That He Felt His Crime No Sin**

ST. PETERSBURG, FLA., Feb. 20.—By The Associated Press.—Charged with wiping out the four members of his family, two by two, on dates exactly one year apart, Frank McDowell, 19 years old, tonight was confined in the Pinellas county jail at Clearwater to await trial in one of the most amazing murder cases in southern criminal records.

The youth signed a confession late today admitting that he shot and killed Mr. and Mrs. J. M. McDowell, his parents, last night and that he caused the fire in which Marion, 18, and Willemagee, 16, his two sisters perished at Decatur, Ga., February 19, 1923.

In the story which he repeated three times to Chief of Police George M. Coslick and Chief of Detectives John Trotter, Frank said his mind became "hazy" at times and that during these spells he was obsessed with the hallucination that the members of his family were followers of the anti-Christ.

Tracing the origin of these "hazy" spells, Frank said that when he was 12 years old he blasphemed the "Holy Ghost" and that since that time he has been trying to expiate his sin, but he did not explain of what this "blasphemy" consisted.

This "blasphemy" occurred on February 19, he said. Every year since when the anniversary of this "blasphemy" approached, Frank said his mind became erratic and he believed his family to be allied with the anti-Christ. These delusions continued annually until one year ago he felt that he must kill his sisters in order to atone for his "blasphemous" sin.

After he had started the fire in which his sisters perished, Frank said his mind returned to rationality and he was appalled at the crime he had committe, but did not reveal it to anyone. When February 19 of this year came near, he felt that the death of his parents was a sacrifice demanded as penance for the killing of his sisters, he said.

Explaining the Decatur, Ga, fire Frank said that he crept into the room occupied by his sisters, saturated the bed clothing with gasoline, fired the inflammable mass with coals carried from the family hearth and fled from the house when the blaze flared up, locking all exits behind him.

Although the house did not burn to the ground, the room in which the two girls slept was destroyed.

Frank said he went to sleep on his couch in a room adjoining that of his parents last night without any definite thought of violence to Mr. and Mrs. McDowell. He dreamed, he said, that he was commanded to accomplish the destruction of his father and mother. He said the dream was so compelling that when he awoke he arose from his bed went into the next room and fired five shots at Mr. and Mrs. McDowell.

The first shot struck Mr. McDowell. The bullet penetrated the left temple and passed out on the right side of the head. Mrs. McDowell also was shot through the left temple and the bullet emerged in the same manner ,imbedding itself in the pillow where it was found later. Apparently neither had been aroused.

Between the bodies of his parents, Frank said he laid a note, typewritten on paper, which had been cut out in heart form. The note contained the Lord's prayer and a garbled wording of family Bible phrases, written in lower case letters without spacing between words.

Frank said he wrote the note Monday on a typewriter in his father's office. It was intended, he said, to refer to his sisters. "Sin shall be washed away in the blood of the lamb as it gusheth from the body of thine slain enemy," and "I offer up this prayer to the spirit, written upon the likeness of mine heart," were typical phrases.

Horrified by his crime, Frank said he attempted to make it appear as a murder by some one else by hiding his .32 calibre revolver in the bottom of a trunk, slashing the screen door entrance to the home and bumping his head against a door to support his story that he had heard a commotion in his parents room, had opened the door leading into that room and been knocked senseless for fifteen minutes by an unknown assailant.

While under police guard Frank appeared highly intelligent for a youth of his age. He said he had left high school in his junior year and passed college examinations. Police found in the home many books on religious topics on the fly leaves of which was written Frank's name. The McDowell family was known to be deeply religious.

The Reverend E. T. Pulson, pastor of the First Baptist church, which the elder McDowells attended, said Frank in the past few months had scoffed at the Christian religion and refused to accede to parents' request that he join and attend their church. Frank confirmed this, adding that he had been torn between conflicting ideas on religion at one time believing in God, at another rejecting Christianity.

A jury called by Coroner E. M. Burke returned a verdict this evening finding that Mr. and Mrs. McDowell had come to their death from bullet wounds and that the bullet wounds were inflicted by Frank. The jury recommended that Frank be held on a charge of murder, without bail.

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DECATUR, GA., Feb. 20.—In the event Frank McDowell escapes the penalty of the law for the slaying of his parents in Florida, to which he is said to have confessed, his return to Georgia will be asked for his trial on a charge of murder in connection with the death of his two sisters, Robert C. Ramspeck, solicitor of the Decatur city court, announced late today. Marion McDowell, 18, and Williamatee, 16, were mysteriously burned to death in the McDowell resdence here on February 18, 1923, exactly one year to a day before their parents were slain.

At the time of the tragedy four negro suspects were arrested and examined but no evidence sufficient to warrant prosecuton resulted and they were released.

# *Jury Awards Big Verdict for Alleged Abuse in Florida*

JACKSONVILLE, FLA., March 20.—A jury in federal court tonight returned a verdict for $15,[illegible] in favor of Paul R. White, District of Columbia youth, in his suit for $50,000 damage against T. J. Knabb, state senator, for alleged abuse and mistreatment while he was a prisoner in Mr. Knabb's Baker county convict camp in the early part of 1923. The verdict was returned after the jury had deliberated for thirty minutes.

# HIGGINBOTHAM IS GIVEN NEW TRIAL

**Florida Supreme Court Reverses Conviction on Writ of Error Based on Venue Change.**

Tallahassee, Fla., May 31.—Thomas W. Higginbotham, convict "whipping boss," convicted in Columbia county circuit court last July of second degree murder, and sentenced to twenty years in the penitentiary, as an outgrowth of the death of Martin Tabert, North Dakota youth, was granted a new trial in an opinion handed down late today by the Florida supreme court reversing the lower court.

The supreme court, in its opinion, held that the circuit judge erred in granting the change of venue from Dixie county to Columbia county on motion by the state and over the defense objection without first having made an actual test as to whether it was practically impossible to procure an impartial jury in Dixie county.

Higginbotham was convicted July 7, last, on an affidavit that charged him with having caused the death of Tabert as the result of a beating administered while the North Dakotan was serving a term in the Putnam Lumber company's convict camp where Tabert had been sent from Leon county for three months for bumming his way on a freight train. Following his conviction, counsel for Higginbotham appealed the case to the supreme court alleging that 38 errors were made by the circuit court in trying the case.

Talbert's death in the Dixie county lumber camp in February, 1922, resulted in an investigation of the whole convict leasing system of Florida and its abolishment by the state legislature at its 1923 session That body also prohibited corporal punishment, substituting the so-called solitary confinement cell. The investigation of the case followed adoption by the senate of North Dakota of a memorial asking the Florida lawmakers to look into the case.

During the trial the state charged Higginbotham with having whipped Tabert so severely that it brought about traumatic pneumonia which resulted in death four days later.

# Two Florida Policemen Indicted, Await Trial For Willful Shooting

JACKSONVILLE, Fla., Sept 4 (A. N. P.).—For the first time in a number of years two police, white, have been indicted and charged with manslaughter for the killing of a Negro youth, Benjamin Washington. The policemen, R. L. Woods, and J. S. Meeds were indicted last Thursday. Washington made his living peddling ice. He was shot down by the officers in front of his home after they had arrested him, and had allowed him to drive there to put up his team. Colored people were driven away from the scene, and the officers declared they shot in self-defense. Colored witnesses declared that the youth did not offer any resistance to the officers and that the knife was placed under his body after the killing.

The indictment is the result of the fight of the Florida Sentinel, Negro paper here, for the conviction of policemen who shot promiscuously at persons. In an editorial the week of the killing, "Barbarism" the Sentinel denounced the crime. The editorial which was strong for a race paper in the South named the participants and caused much comment among white and colored at the time. The policemen have been relieved of duty and are out on bond awaiting trial.

Crime-1924

General.

## INCREASE IN CRIME

The police records will show an alarming increase in crimes among the local Negro population. The recent killings and woundings, the result of drunken brawls and the like should arouse the community to the extent of having those in authority get busy with measures to prevent these undesirables from not only destroying themselves, but others.

## ASSIST IN APPREHENDING CRIMINALS

Every law abiding citizen should co-operate with the officers of the law in both county and city in apprehending criminals and violaters of the law. When a citizen points out a law violater in an earnest desire to preserve the good name of the community he is not looked upon as a "pimp" or "snitcher" as the underworld would designate such, but such a citizen is exhibiting the spirit of one earnestly desirous of protecting the community against that class that would destroy the peace and harmony of the same.

However, care should be exercised, both by officers of the law and civilians as well, that innocent people are not subjected to punishment and humiliation by being drawn into the courts and confined in prisons merely on grounds of suspicion. Knoxville has enjoyed the protection of a corps of well trained, conservative Negro policemen who worked with their fellow officers and superior officers with a view of suppressing crime and it is unfortunate that in recent months it should be necessary to direct criticism at one of the officers due to his apparent thoughtless acts in taking into custody men of his race against whom sufficient suspicion was not directed to warrant such action. Judgement must be exercised in picking up people and the officers should have this thoroughly in mind at all times. The situation which confronted New York city readily comes to mind when it became necessary for the officials of that city to take drastic action in handling certain policemen who seemed desirous of making records by working up cases regardless as to whether the persons whom they took into custody were innocent or guilty. Such must not exist in our city.

## THE WHITE MAN TAKES THE LEAD IN CRIME

It seems that a wave of crime is sweeping the country, and that criminality of the most heinous and revolting nature has taken charge of the criminal element of our country. Heretofore the Negro has been called the criminal element but today the white man is going the Negro one better in establishing a criminal record. He is reaping what he has sown. He has been excusing crime among his group, and has been prosecuting and often persecuting the Negro for the smallest crime.

Today, 75 per cent of the crime in this country is being committed by white men. The Negro finds no consolation in this condition. He is for the peace and harmony of the community wherever he lives. He is for the safety of society. He is against all sort of crime. It matters not whether the criminal is black or white. The white man is learning his lesson; that crime against black men, lead to crime against white men, and the excusing of a white man or any other criminal of a crime that ought to be punished, is simply license to the individual to commit more crime. The white man has delighted in holding up the entire Negro race for the criminal tendencies of the few, and to excuse the criminal element of the white race upon the ground of their color and to such an extent that a white criminal largely believes that his face immunes him from punishment for crime. The policy of the white man has been, that if a crime was committed, to put it on a Negro, and thousands of white criminals have escaped, while policemen were seeking to charge the crime to Negroes and in many instances they have not sought to punish the guilty Negro, but satisfied themselves to punish some Negro for the effect it would have on all the Negroes.

It is a hard job to convict a white man in our country for crime against a Negro, but easy to convict a Negro for crime against a white man. For the safety of society, the punishment of white criminals must be just as certain and speedy as the punishment of a Negro criminal. The laxity of the law in dealing with white criminals is responsible for the great spread in crime among white folk today. The lynching of a Negro by white men is only one step to the lynching of a white man by white men. Robbery, burglary and larceny is growing daily, and far more so among white criminals than among Negroes. What society wants is suppression of crime, and crime will never be suppressed so long as part of the criminals are punished for very largely imaginary crime, and another part of the criminals excused and not punished because of their color.

White men are at the bottom of all the violation of the prohibition law, state and national, and but few white men are punished. The average Negro is thrown into prison for the possession of a pint, but thousands of white men go free who deal in carload lots, and who distribute it through the Negro, who receives the punishment. While our policemen are busily engaged in arresting Negroes for late hours, white men are filling the town with bootleg liquor, and issuing it to their Negro agents for distribution among their customers. There is no law for late hours in Atlanta, and the policemen who arrest citizens for being on the streets after twelve are more of a criminal than the men they arrest. The judge who inflicts the punishment upon a citizen who is charged with late hours, maladministers the law. It is an outrage to take up hard working men who are in the streets after twelve at night coming from lodges, societies churches or their neighbor's houses and charge them with idling and loitering, and then inflict outrageous punishment upon them, upon the mere statement of the police that the Negro is idling and loitering. A Negro is so treated that he who works from eight to twelve hours a day is afraid to walk the streets after twelve o'clock. The police could engage his time in better serving society if he would hunt the real criminals, white and black, and bring them to punishment.

There is no reason in a court inflicting punishment in the absence of a statute to regulate punishment. White men are walking any hour at night they please, and are unmolested, but the Negro who is as free as the white man, runs the risk of being locked up; it matters not what his employment is or how industrious he is, if he is seen on the streets after twelve by certain policemen. This is not the general rule among our police officers, but there are some engaged in the mal treatment of citizens of color, and the court sustains their conduct by administering punishment upon their mere statements in court.

God is just. He does not love ugly. Vengeance is His, and He will repay. We have had enough of dual government in our state. One law for the white man and another for the black man. We want equal enforcement of the law. The law is just and ample to cover all crimes. What we need, and want and must have, is impartial enforcement of the law. We want the law enforced just as Governor Dorsey pleaded for the enforcement of all the law, all the time against all criminals, without regard to race or color, when he was governor.

## Candler on Crime in the North and in the South

By BISHOP WARREN A. CANDLER.

Press dispatches report increasing crimes of robbery and bloodshed in Chicago.

The headline under which one leading paper published the facts was, "Chicago Crime Wave Grows; Murder and Banditry Galore," and the caption did not overstate the case.

Crime is not more prevalent in Chicago than it is in other large cities in the north, such as Detroit, New York, and Philadelphia, although it is but just to say that Philadelphia is making a most vigorous effort to put down crime and punish criminals, and the strong hand of General Butler is accomplishing commendable results in "the city of brotherly love." However, the necessity for engaging such a man as General Butler for the purpose he is serving reveals a state of things in Philadelphia very much to be deprecated, and each and all of the large cities in the north need General Butlers to help rid them of alarming conditions of crime. To a degree, they are submerged with lawlessness. Crimes of violence especially abound in them. Robberies and murders are of daily occurrence in them, followed by few arrests and still fewer convictions of the criminals.

In Chicago, a prominent judge recently accused the state's attorney "of deliberately refusing to assist the courts in fighting crime." It thus appears that the criminal classes in that city are strong enough to influence, if not control, the prosecuting officers of the state, and that fact is the worst possible phase of the distressful and dangerous situation.

No man who is a supporter of law and a lover of his country will find any satisfaction of a sectional sort because of the waves of crime sweeping over the larger cities of the north. These urban centers doubtless have to contend with peculiar and obstinate difficulties. Their size, so rapidly attained, is no small obstacle in their way to good order and the suppression of crime.

Thoughtful men, who are just, will also acknowledge the sad fact that the greatest failure of the United States in the matter of government is the failure of our country in the sphere of municipal government. Few American cities are well governed. Cities in any and all lands present perplexing problems. Thomas Jefferson saw clearly this fact, and expressed the hope that the new Republic would never have overgrown urban communities and Bismarck, the Iron Chancellor of the German Empire, said cities were ulcers on the body politic which he desired to excoriate. But the hope expressed by Jefferson has not been fulfilled and the view and purpose of Bismarck have not been realized. New York and Philadelphia and Baltimore have grown beyond all their prospects and expectations in Jefferson's day, and Cincinnati, Chicago, Cleveland and Detroit have sprung up in the wilderness which Virginia ceded as "the Northwest Territory" to the Federal Government under resolutions which Jefferson framed. Berlin and Hamburg are greater now than they were when Bismarck died, notwithstanding the economic and political consequences of the World War.

For many reasons European cities have better governments than American cities possess. They are occupied by homogeneous populations strongly attached by affection to the lands in which they exist, while the

large American cities, especially those of the North, are inhabited by large bodies of foreign immigrants, among whom patriotic devotion to our country is a sentiment almost, if not quite, unknown. This fact makes the problem of municipal government quite complicated. Such being the case, good citizens in every section of our widely-extended nation will not be swift to censure the crime-cursed cities of the North, but, on the contrary, they will be disposed to feel for these urban centers the most sincere sympathy and the most genuine and friendly concern.

In like manner the same spirit of kind and sympathetic consideration should be extended to the people of the Pacific coast and the people of the South in dealing with their racial problems, which are so perplexing and baffling.

Unfortunately such consideration is not generally accorded to the people of the Pacific and Southern States, especially the latter.

For example, the savage and indefensible crime of lynching is rapidly decreasing in the South, for which the great majority of the Southern people have joy and give thanks to God. Nevertheless, a sectional and partisan bill is pending in the Federal Congress, known as the "Dyer Anti-Lynching Bill," and directly aimed at the humiliating prostration of the Southern States under the unconstitutional domination of the national government.

In these Southern States there are ten times as many people as there are in the city of Chicago, and yet during the months of June, July and August, 1924, there were in Chicago nearly twice as many murders for which no one was even arrested as there were lynchings in the entire South during the whole year of 1923. But no anti-murder bills to suppress homicides in Chicago, New York, and Boston are introduced in the Federal Congress. Why not?

The courts of these northern cities are no more upright than the courts of the South.

No such high waves of crime are sweeping over the South as those which are prevailing in the great cities of the North.

As great, if not greater, per cent of the negroes living in Illinois have been unlawfully killed than there have been lynched in Texas.

The crime which provokes the majority of the lynchings done in the South is peculiarly exasperating. The father or husband or brother of a white woman outraged by a brutal negro is enraged to an almost uncontrollable fury. Who would not be?

But what of cold-blooded murders in Chicago to get money?

What of the heartless and savage killing of a little schoolboy in Chicago who was done to death by two university students that they might experience a new "thrill" in the experience of their cruel crime?

And what of some preachers in Illinois who slew their wives in order to live with "affinities" for whom they had conceived shameless infatuations.

Are such sordid and repulsive crimes in Illinois to be left to State courts to try and punish, while for fewer lynchings in the South the powerful hand of the Federal Government is to displace the lawful tribunals of the Southern States and inflict unjust penalties and exactions upon thousands of innocent people who heartily detest the lynchings for which under the "Dyer Bill" whole counties and communities would be fined?

Why this difference? Are the Southern people such sinners above all others who dwell in the United States that they must be stigmatized and their rights invaded by such unnecessary and unjust laws?—Atlanta Journal.

## *Suggests a Remedy For Crime Wave*

Editor Constitution: In your editorial, "Ruffian Night Riders," you mention the crime wave in the state of Georgia in which you say: "It is doing Georgia an injury that is incalculable."

A newspaper from Tennessee says the same of that very great state, a real crime wave in Tennessee.

A newspaper in North Carolina tells the same story of a crime wave in the good state of North Carolina. The attorney general says: "Criminal actions of all kinds have increased during the period (1924) to 4,322 from 2,743 for 1923."

We all seem to know all about the disease, why not try to find some cure?

We need firm judges—first and last we need good judges.

I was born on a farm in Michigan 55 years ago. We were 130 miles from Chicago, and raised good horses for the then Chicago market (that in the day of street-car horses, carriage horses) and, oh, man alive!—the horse thieves!

A horse thief got 90 days, 6 months, maybe, very seldom 9 months to 1 year in jail.

A firm judge at last came to our rescue. He gave 12-year penitentiary sentences, and he ended for all time work of the horse thieves. He was like the Judge John L. Hopkins that you wrote editorially about in a recent issue of The Constitution.

Suppose we suggest this:

1. Law and order club in each county.
2. Law and order club in each township.
3. Law and order club in each church congregation.
4. Law and order club in each consolidated school district (all large school districts).

Offer a liberal reward for all criminals and law-breakers.

ARTHUR SIMMONS.
R. F. D. No. 10, Burlington, N. C.
December 26, 1924.

# EDITORIALS

## *Inter-racial Homicides*

How frequently do the personal differences between whites and Negroes in the South reach the point of fatal violence? The Department of Health of Memphis, Tennessee, has just completed a study of violent deaths in four fairly representative cities: Memphis, Birmingham, New Orleans, and Atlanta. The results disclose among other interesting facts a sidelight on race relations of no little significance. In addition there is evidence which offers some explanation of the enormous homicide rate which the insurance statisticians, crime prevention agencies, and more advanced communities have long viewed with alarm.

The population of these four cities is about 950,000, of which number about one-third are Negroes. For the two year period, 1921 and 1922, a total of 741 homicides is recorded, 219 white and 522 colored. The report makes the mistake common to most commentators on the Negro crime rate, of regarding the Negroes killed as the murderers. This is probably due to the pattern set by the insurance statisticians of looking upon the number of deaths as an index merely to life expectancy in a certain group. An example is at hand. Of the 522 Negro homicides only 292, or 55 per cent, were known to have been killed by Negroes; seventy-seven, or fifteen per cent, of these Negroes are known to have been killed by whites; and in the remaining 153 cases it is known merely that a Negro was killed with the chances about equal on the race of the murderer. This materially alters the estimate of violent crimes by Negroes even though it neither affects the insurance estimate of a Negro's chances of death nor the fact that the homicide rate among Negroes is higher than it should be.

Of the 219 white homicides, 122 were committed by whites and thirty-one by Negroes, while the race of sixty-six murderers is not known. No white women were killed by Negroes; no Negro women killed any whites at all; and no white women killed any Negroes.

It is in the causes of homicides that the angles of pressure should be most pronounced. Of the seventy-seven Negro homicides attributed to whites, thirty-nine were committed by officers of the law. This is greatly out of proportion it seems, since only three whites were killed by these guardians of the peace. Two were killed in difficulties involving sex, three in fights, one in a quarrel, nine as robbers, one as the victim of a robber, five in a strike, one in promiscuous shooting.

Of the thirty-one white persons killed by Negroes, two deaths resulted from a difficulty involving sex, three were officers killed on duty, (four others were killed by whites), fourteen were whites killed by Negro robbers, one white robber was killed by a Negro, two were killed in fights, two were white bootleggers, and one white was killed by a Negro in a strike.

The common occasions for violent contact do not show up conspicuously. The questions of sex and individual clashes in fights are of small importance in the registered cases. The difficulties might as easily be regarded as economic as sentimental for if the ridiculous nervousness and bull-dozing of the police are excluded the greatest numbers of inter-racial deaths were occasioned by robberies and strikes. This does not seem serious but points rather to a singular degree of self-containment under situations which are known to be difficult. There is little trace of the wantonly vicious element of Negroes about whom so much has been written and it is conceivable that these figures might serve as an index to improving relations even though they contribute unwittingly to the destruction of one of the old myths about the Negro criminal.

Crime—1924. General.

## Homicides in America 12 Times Over Britain's

NEW YORK, Feb. 27.—The homicide rate in America is about 12 times as high as it is in England and this is due "very largely to the high homicide mortality in America among colored persons," according to the Statistical Bulletin of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company.

The Bulletin says 1923 was a busy year for man-killers" and points out that in 1922 6.3 per cent per 100,000 of the industrial policy-holders in Canada and the United States were slain, while in 1923 this figure was increased to 7.3 per cent.

"The figures are the more significant," says the Bulletin, "when it is unerstood that these industrial policy-holders number approximately 15.000,000—nearly one-seventh of the combined population of the two countries."

# BOOZE, DRUGS AND SEX LURE YOUTH TO CHICAGO UNDERWORLD RESORTS WHERE DEPRAVED BEASTS ARE "OVERLORDS

By Grady K. Rutledge

The hour is late. The long, low-vaulted room is murky, its subdued lighting rendered hazy by the fumes of a hundred cigarettes. At the tables sit groups of people—old roues and young girls; street women, over dressed and under dressed; sleek black men and fat, perspiring wenches; bejeweled white women; big, black bucks dressed in loud checks and flaming stripes; undersized white men, rats, pimps, gamblers, gunmen—the riff-raff and scum of the underworld of a large city.

In a corner a negro orchestra of a dozen pieces grinds out a sensual syncopation, its lustful strains accentuated by the body suggestions of the light-skinned, carmined and rouged negress singer whose words are drowned by the din of the saxophone, drums and traps. In the center a dozen couples slide and shuffle about the floor, some cheek-by-jowl, others in bear-like embrace; slide and shuffle with sinuous twistings and vulgar contortions which occasionally break out in indescribably indecent motions provoked by some perculiarly weird and seductive passage of music.

Black men are dancing with white girls and white men are dancing with negresses. The air reeks with fumes of vile and poisonous liquor, stale tobacco smoke, cheap perfume. There is an atmosphere of complete abandon, of complete surrender to bestial passion.

Such is the "Black and Tan" dive of Christian Chicago in civilized America!

The young girl in the corner, who so recently came to the city to find asylum from her small-town shame, is now completely given over, body and soul, to the black-skinned beast who has just seated himself at her table to collect her earnings. There is still a faint dash of youth and bloom in her face, but her eyes are lustreless and her lips have a tendency to quiver, betraying her fear at the thought of the beating which is to be her lot because of her evening's failure at the trade.

At the next table a white woman expensively gowned and flashing diamonds. Her drug-dilated pupils are fixed on the brown-skinned, sleekily groomed man at her side. He is a graduate of a Northern University. He has achieved "equality." The woman has no sense of shame at her degradation.

A party of three couples arrive. They are patently of the outre monde —"slummers." They are "respectable" and would be shocked at the suggestion that by indirection they are participants in the carnival of lust and shame. Two of the girls are quite young, their wide eyes drinking in the lustful scene quite unaware that the passionate thrills they are experiencing are undermining the pillars of self respect and self-control. Thus the barriers of civilization, erected to protect their womanhood and defend their chastity, are broken down and their destruction hastened.

It is an unlovely picture.

Multiply this scene many times and you may have some idea of the evil intermingling of the races in Chicago and other large Northern cities. But it is not in the extent of the intermingling that the magnitude of the evil and danger lies—extensive though it is—rather in the potential dangers and in the evil and wickedness of the thing itself.

Both races must bear a part of the shame, but it is up to the dominant race to awaken its conscience to the shamelessness of this social condition and find steps to eradicate it. Else—

There may come, some fatal day, one of those terribly tragical racial frame-ups, perhaps another East St. Louis magnified many times.

Perhaps it won't come. But whether it does or not, does not alter the bad situation—bad for both races. The very existence of such disgusting and pernicious conditions can only be a constant source of irritation to the race-proud Caucasian who has erected a civilization from traditions that run back thousands of years. Nor does he propose to see that blood stream polluted, or changed in the slightest. Never! We will be true to the faith of his fathers, be the cost whatever it may.

The history of mankind is a narrative of achievement and progress; steady, ever upward and onward, though not without its periods of retardations, its setbacks. And no factor has been more responsible for its failures than racial miscegenation. The triumphs of civilization have been the triumphs of the white race and these triumphs can be largely laid to its faith in its ideals of reproduction. Miscegenation, polygamy, polyandry, find no place in its civilization; its structure is erected on monogamy and an undefiled blood stream.

In this respect the white race has a monoply not possessed by the black, brown, red or yellow man. Consider this prophecy made by Dr. Edgar L. Hewitt, famous author-educator-lecturer in a recent address before the College Women's Club of San Diego:

"Within four or five generations hence an entirely new race will be formed in the Republic of Mexico. This new race will have as its basis the North American Indian and will include the amalgamation of the Spanish and the Negro. This new race will have black personal characteristics, Indian ideas and a language that is a mixture of English, French and Spanish."

The Negro World, a New York newspaper which aspires to interpret the cultural ideas and economic and political ambitions of the 400,000,000 black people of the world, in a recent issue comments on Dr. Hewitt's prediction in these words:

"It is no secret that the various colored races who desire to live in America in happiness and without fear of persecution are slowly but surely migrating to the great Mexican Republic, where they are welcomed without prejudice.

"The American Indian, few in number but wealthy, objects to the narrow bounds of reservation life and longs for freedom amid the vast expanses of virgin nature such as is only possible in Mexico.

"The Hindu, no longer classed as white; the Chinese, the Japanese and other foreign colored people are to be barred from owning or leasing land in the United States.

"Under the alien land laws in effect in most Pacific States, the Hindu, Chinese, Japanese, African and other aliens not eligible to citizenship in the United States are not only prohibited from becoming citizens of the United States, but are also prohibited from acquiring control of farming lands either by direct sale, lease or through cropping contracts in the State of California and most States west of the Mississippi."

These manifestations prove the white man's insistence on protecting himself from the encroachments of alien races.

He knows vice flourishes with social intermingling of the races. Awake to its evil, he will carry on to new triumphs, to the fulfillment of that high destiny entrusted to him by the wisdom of the Maker of all mankind.

BIRMINGHAM ALA. LEDGER
JUL 25 1924

# CRIME INHERENT, ABERNETHY SAYS

## Environment And Education Ineffectual, Judge Declares

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(Ensley Bureau)

Crime and its cause was the subject of an address of Judge H. B. Abernethy, before the Ensley Kiwanis club Thursday. The well known judge of the court of misdemeanors, whose long years of experience, qualifies him as an expert, startled the club by declaring environment and education would not eradicate the crime streak in individuals. He argued that a little child should and does know right from wrong and that an educated person or one reared in the proper environment should know that basic principle better than any one. However, he said that education nor environment would cure the evil that existed. He pointed out the cases before the courts of Chicago, wherein two highly intellectual boys are being tried for murder. He said that if one were to trace the ancestors of those boys backward, one would be certain to find that a moral degenerate existed. He pointed out many cases which comes before him from time to time, all of them indicating that proper education and proper environment did not save the trespassers from their wrong. Judge Abernethy suggested that instead of the physical examinations required before marriage certificates are issued, that moral and mental examinations should be given. He pointed out that ethical training was the real solution for crime and that starting from birth and from the cradle to the age of adolesence the young should should be given the ethical suggestions which bring about good men and women.

Judge Abernethy, who was reared in south Alabama, said the negro was a good citizen if given a square chance and that he made it a rule to treat them absolutely justly and that many good results have been obtained. He also said that bobbed hair was an evil which was looked upon with far too much concern and that boys and girls of the present day were "hitting the pace" much faster than is good for the future.

# WHERE ARE THE BLACK LOEBS AND LEOPOLDS?

In the midst of the series of bomb outrages, Ku Klux Klan murders of Caucasians, the spectacular and infamous holdups throughout the country, and the spectacular murders committed by the millionaire youths, Leopold and Loeb, and Norman Selby, the wail about the black race's criminality has suddenly ceased. The murders of the Caucasian ministers and their paramours in New Jersey and Wisconsin; the Herrin (Ill.) massacre and the Kentucky moonshiners' slayings of Federal agents, have all been monster crimes against Caucasians by Caucasians, which have no parallels in black criminology. That there have been no black Booths, no Guiteaus, no Czolgoszes, like the assassins of Lincoln, Garfield and McKinley, should cause this prejudice-ridden nation to stop and think. Where in all history, where in all this wide, wide world, has there been another people persecuted as has been the black race and not risen in revolt as fiends of bloodshed and destruction?

The enemies of the colored American base much of their appeal for popular prejudice against him on the ground of his alleged wanton and excessive criminality. The black man's friends, very rare nowadays and even less courageous, palliate this argument with the soft answer that every race has its criminals, and that even though the black race has its quota, conditions of which he is the victim account for such. Ethnologists and sociologists, with few exceptions, who now, as at all times in the past, have not been found wanting when scientific support was needed to bolster up the arguments of the bigoted race at that time in power, have accounted for the colored citizen's alleged criminal tendency, on the grounds of his primitive and impulsive nature.

8-23-24

To all such enemies and friends and learned men of science we should like to call attention that the colored citizen of this country has produced no such beastly murderous brutes as have the white Americans furnished to shock the entire civilized world. Neither does this tendency among the white Americans confine itself to any social class or racial group among them. The first families of Virginia are no more immune from the lust for human blood than are the denizens of the Bowery. The clay-eating Georgian cracker is prone to run the entire gamut of inhuman crimes. The proud Puritans of the Old Bay State have produced their finished fiends and anarchists as well. Nor can the haughty Anglo-Saxon point the finger of scorn in crime at the lowly Latin or the humble Hebrew. The Christian world first stood aghast, but it has now learned to endure the lynch murderers of Georgia, Texas and Mississippi, who have riddled with bullets the bodies of thousands of colored men, often innocent, who have strangled them in city squares, have burned them alive at the stake and sold parts of their victim's vital organs to white women or to the children of the coming generation. The primitive black man has not yet mastered lynch law. The first families of the Old Dominion were said by Massachusetts and New York to have gone to seed when Beatty, a few years ago, in cold blood stealthily murdered his fiancee. But how can either look down on Virginia when Cambridge, the fountain head of this nation's learning, gave to the world Richeson, the preacher, who fiendishly poisoned his wronged and jilted sweetheart; when Cornell furnished, in a doctor of philosophy, a fiendish anarchist and assassin like Frank Holt: when Manhattan contributed a grafting police lieutenant and arch-criminal, who hired expert murderers from the East Side to dispatch a squealing gambler; or Cornell its brilliant graduate, Frank, who foully and fatally slugged an outraged girl employe?

The colored American, thank God, has yet to achieve the race development where he may go to seed. He has yet to have the liberty, even at Cambridge, where he may feel licensed to practice premeditated murder. He has yet to become a metropolitan police lieutenant shielded by the "system" in his right to take offending and annoying human life. He has yet to graduate from Cornell and have a position opened to him in the factory of his forebears, where he may force despised workmen of another race to shield his crimes against maidenhood and upon whom he can conveniently fasten the guilt when his inhuman practices make a fatal slip. Nor can the Roman Catholic look askance at the Protestant when Schmidt, a priest, his hands dripping with the blood of his great and secret wife—whose throat he had deliberately cut and whose body he, an expert at the ghoulish business, had artfully dismembered and deposited, piece by piece, in the river—sanctimoniously conducted scores of confessions. In comparison with the Caucasian's fiendish murderism the slayings of the black man have been as acts of charity. Where, oh! learned men of science, is the wanton and excessive criminality of the colored citizen? Where, Negrophobists, are the black fiends and assassins and Ku Klux Klan anarchists who have attacked capital and would destroy the nation? Where are the black Loebs and Leopolds?

Crime – 1924.

Georgia.

## THE BOOT ON THE OTHER LEG

To read the headlines in the average white daily, you would think that the Negro was the only burly black brute or bandit, but an examination of the columns of most of the dailies will show you that in the South, the white man is far more criminal and his crimes more heinous and revolting than any crime committed by the Negro. The Negro is growing less criminal and the white man more criminal every day. As we scan the front page of the Atlanta Constitution December 17, we read of the following crimes:

Roark, a telegraph operator walks into the Western Union telegraph office and shoots to death Miss Vena Moore in cold blood; shoots her four times in the back as if she were a brute and deserved to be shot down like a dog without an opportunity to defend herself. In Macon, Ga., a white man named Swain shoots to death Walter Johnson, a 17-year-old white boy, in the streets of Macon December 16. Shoots his wife four times, tries to kill himself, and the only regret he expressed at his crime is that he did not have the opportunity to kill his mother-in-law. On the same page we read that two young white men took Miss Bessie King, a white girl, 19-years-old, of 43 E. Harris St., to a secluded place, flog her unmercifully and left her in the road to die. The white men did not deny the crime. These men, for kidnapping this girl and flogging her unmercifully, are out on bond. D. M. Wright and J. L. Mabry are lying in Davis-Fisher Sanitarium at the point of death as a result of chopping the door down at the home of G. W. Collum. As they gained their way into the house they began to shoot promiscuously into the bunch of people seated around the fire. They shot a Mr. Cash down, knocked his sweetheart in the head; she secured a pistol and shot both of the intruders down as the result of which they have been hanging between life and death since Saturday night.

The victims of the young lady's shots claim that as they stepped off the street car on Peachtree Road, Saturday night, a Negro highwayman held them up, robbed and shot them, but Mr. Cash and his sweetheart, Miss Jones, tell a different story. Miss Jones stated that she shot them both as they chopped the door down with an axe and shot into the family circle as they sat around the fireside.

After all, it seems that somebody commits crimes besides Negroes. We only give a review of these crimes to let the public know that while there is still criminals among Negroes, there are many more white criminals among the whites.

## PEARL BOOTH

The Independent is not interested in Pearl Booth further than that justice be meted out to her. If she is guilty, she ought to be punished, and if not, acquitted. We are not passing upon her guilt or innocence—we are only interested in the punishment of the guilty and the acquittal of the innocent. If Pearl is guilty of the murder of J. L. Arendale, adequate punishment should be inflicted, but if she is innocent, she should be set free.

We hold no brief for the woman, but we hold a brief for justice and righteousness. We believe that verdicts ought to be rendered according to evidences, and that guilt should be established beyond the reasonable doubt.

The evidence against this woman was purely circumstantial, and may not have warranted the verdict nor the sentence of the court. We hold the highest personal regard for both the ability and integrity of His Honor, who sentenced the accused—we know the man, and know his willingness to do his duty as he has the light and conscience to discover it. He has both a legal and impartial mind, and is moved to administer justice as his conscience impels him; but whether the evidence warranted the verdict in Pearl's case, is a question in the minds of many. It is an awful catastrophe to take the life of a human being—legally or illegally—and the jury should weigh carefully and prayerfully, every bit of circumstantial evidence before it enters up a verdict to take the life of a human being. It would be far better to let a hundred guilty persons escape, than to wrongfully take the life of an innocent being—it matters not how worthless the character may be, she or he, possess a human life that is as sweet to them as the life of a king.

Circumstantial evidence is all right when there is no break in the chain in which every link counts one with the other, excluding every reasonable doubt except the hypothesis of guilt.

In criminal cases, the jury is the judge of the law and facts, and should, at least, be morally certain of the guilt of the accused at the bar, before entering up a verdict of guilt, excluding every hypothesis except the one of guilt; and the jury must be satisfied in its mind beyond a reasonable doubt, that the deceased could not have come to his or her death, except at the hands of the accused at the bar, under the circumstances.

There were no eye-witnesses to the murder of the old watchman, therefore, Pearl was convicted on circumstantial evidence. The state based its entire case upon circumstantial evidence. The circumstances, as we remember them, were as follows:

First—On searching Pearl's house for stolen goods, a watch was found which resembled the watch of the dead watchman. Without the knowledge of the number of the works and case of the watch, how could it be identified as the dead man's watch?

Second—A hammer was found on the back porch of the woman's house with spots that resembled blood on the handle of it. The chemist said the black spots were human blood. Granting that the spots were human blood, what were the circumstances that connected the blood on the hammer handle with the death of the watchman? What was the proof that it was the watchman's blood?

The fact that Pearl left home in the afternoon of the night of the murder, wearing a red sweater with a bundle under her arm large enough to hide a hammer—and the fact that this dark sweater was found in her house later, with a watch in the pocket, is not sufficient evidence to connect her trip, or to point out that she visited the lumber yard and committed murder. Thousands of people may have left home that afternoon, and none of them may have committed murder. Mr. Patterson said that a bottle of medicine and bandage were taken from the chest at the lumber yard, and were later found in Pearl's trunk. Did he testify to the labels, or did the state produce the bottles and bandages in court with evidence to prove that the bottles that were taken from the lumber yard's medicine chest were the same bottles and bandages found in Pearl's house? How was the watch identified as the property of the dead watchman? Did the jury disregard the dying statement of the watchman to the effect that four unidentified white men assaulted him?

These are questions competent to give rise to the reasonable doubt in the minds of the jury and to make the jury ask themselves the question, Did the dying man, who saw his assassins, tell the truth, or must we believe these disconnected, isolated circumstances?

The woman was indicted for, and was being tried for the murder of J. L. Arendale, and no other charge was alleged against her, and yet, evidence was admitted to show that she had held up and robbed three other persons. She had not been indicted, and was not on trial for either of these alleged crimes; but this evidence was introduced and admitted. Pearl had not been notified that the state was going to make her character an issue, and be placed on trial for every alleged crime that anybody might bring against her. If she had attacked and robbed either Mesdames Rogers, Lichenstein or Kaufman, she had not been indicted for these offenses, and was not on trial for them.

We do not know whether she committed the crime or not, and we would not attempt to say, but we have read the evidence as reported in the newspapers, and we do not see that it warranted the verdict. It is crime enough to commit murder, but for the law to illegally take a human life, is a catastrophe that miscarries justice and makes our courts a mockery.

Pearl ought to have a new trial. She may not have the money—she may be an outcast, but she is a human being, and is entitled to justice under the law, and the court stands ready to give it.

Crime - 1924

Georgia.

# WALKER ALLOWS WATERS TO HANG

## Sentence of Negro Who Slew Greek in Robbery Commuted to Life Imprisonment by Governor.

Atlanta Constitution 9-19-24

Governor Walker refused Thursday to interfere with the sentence of the court in the case of Warren Waters, aged white man of Jeff Davis county, sentenced to be hanged today, but commuted the death sentence of Will Johnson, Atlanta negro, to life imprisonment.

Waters was sentenced to hang after conviction on a charge of killing T. J. Kersey, police officer of Hazlehurst. Kersey, it was testified, was probation officer of the county. Waters had been prosecuted on a charge of violating the prohibition law, and Kersey, it is stated, went to his house in order to search it for liquor, whereupon Waters shot him. Waters' age was given at the trial as 58.

Johnson, the Atlanta negro, was convicted of killing Pete S Poulos, proprietor of a restaurant on Forsyth street. The prison commission declined to recommend clemency in his case.

Governor Walker, who has had the Johnson case under consideration for some days, gave as reason for hising commutation the possibility of mistaken identity. He further cited the testimony to show that Chester Johnson, an older brother of the condemned man, who was convicted of conspiracy in the same case, only received a life term, though, as the governor said, he is older, more intelligent, with superior mentality, and manner and probably planned the crime."

The shooting occurred when the two negroes were attempting to rob the restaurant. Poulos resisted them. It was claimed that Poulos, in a dying statement, charged Will Johnson with firing the fatal shot.

The following statement was given out by Governor Walker when he announced his decision to commute:

"I believe in capital punishment, but only in atrocious crimes with positive and entirely satisfactory evidence of guilt. 9-19-24

"This crime was atrocious.

**Reviews Evidence of Case.**

"The eyewitness, who testifies to positive evidence, and who is a kinsman of the deceased, was not positive when the crime was committed. He now says that his identification of Johnson came into his mind gradually through a period of several days after the crime. In my judgment, other evidence does not measure up to the standard satisfying me that the extreme penalty should be imposed. Those interested agree that Chester Johnson, a co-defendant, is older, more intelligent with superior mentality, and manner and probably planned the crime. But for assistance rendered the state by Johnson, the perpetrators would have gone unwhipped of justice. Johnson's witnesses were not placed on the stand and the jury was not given the opportunity to pass on the defendant's evidence.

"For these and other reasons, I am unwilling that a severer punishment than Chester Johnson's be imposed and am commuting the sentence to life imprisonment."

**SHERIFF PREPARES TO EXECUTE WATERS.**

Hazlehurst, Ga., September 18.—Sheriff D. L. Evans announced tonight that he has sworn in 12 extra deputies for service tomorrow in connection with the execution of Warren Waters, under sentence to hang. Governor Walker informed the sheriff today that he would not interfere in the carrying out of the sentence.

This is to be the last legal hanging in Georgia, the electric chair having been erected in Milledgeville to inflict the death penalty in later convictions.

Waters is in jail at Jesup, Wayne county, and will be brought here at 1 o'clock tomorrow afternoon and taken immediately to the scaffold which has been erected within 50 feet of the courtroom, where Waters was convicted last January of the murder of Marshal T. J. Kersey. The killing was a result of the marshal's effort to reach the Waters home in a search for whisky.

## WOMAN SOUGHT AND NEGRO HELD IN ARSON PROBE

Atlanta Constitution 10-4-24

Macon, Ga., October 3.—(Special.) Millard E. Dennis, negro, was arrested and a warrant for Mrs. C. A. Cunningham, wife of a former city recorder and widely-known Macon lawyer, was issued here in an investigation of the burning of a house owned by Mrs. Cunningham in the Bellevue section of Bibb county. Both are accused of arson, the negro having signed a confession that he was promised $100 by Mrs. Cunningham if he set fire to the house.

Mrs. Cunningham left Macon several months ago to reside in Fort Pierce, Fla., and the warrant was forwarded there today to be served on her. Dennis is now confined in Bibb county jail. 10-4-24

At the time the Cunningham house was burned, it was unoccupied. It was insured for $1,700. The fire spread to an adjoining house owned and occupied by the family of M. A. Palmer. The Palmers, who purchased and furnished their place just prior to the fire, lost everything they had and barely escaped with their lives.

The investigation of the fire had been under way here for some time by a special agent for the national board of underwriters and J. Albert Sharp, state fire marshal, of Atlanta. Sometime ago they notified the insurance company not to pay Mrs. Cunningham's claim pending an investigation.

Dennis, in his confession today, said he had not received the $100 he had been promised for setting the dwelling afire.

### "GET YOUR MAN."

Following the close of the civil war, around 1870—in the dark period of reconstruction—there was a crime wave in Atlanta similar to the one that is sweeping the city today. Atlanta Constitution

The community was overrun by an element of white renegades and irresponsibles that flocked to the south to capitalize the emancipated negroes.

The negroes themselves had federal bayonets stacked around them for their protection. 11-16-24

Most of the old-time slaves were loyal and orderly, but many of the younger negroes, intoxicated with false ideas of the results of the war, and inflamed with whisky and the easy-going vices at their elbows, were banded in lawlessness—along with lawless whites—the whole precipitating a condition very much like the one that exists in Atlanta today, with conditions today making such a situation infinitely less excusable.

That situation was met then, and met in Atlanta by the strong arm and the mandate of constituted authority—just as it must be met now, if the peace and security of society is to be maintained and protected.

Judge John L. Hopkins, one of the great outstanding lawyers and jurists of his age, ascended the superior court bench in Fulton county. In an orderly manner he determined to outlaw crime with the law, and he did it. Unrelenting, unyielding and uncompromising he demanded an enforcement of law and gave the guilty the limit of the law without mercy and without temporizing with makeshifts for justice. He was relentless in his crusade against crime, speedy in bringing criminals to the bar, fair in the trials, but unafraid and untrammelled and unintimidated in the administration of the full measures of justice, and in the penalizations of the guilty. His life was threatened, but it had no effect upon his crusade against crime. Nothing deterred him—and he shot for big game as the basic foundation upon which the smaller crimes found lodgment.

In exterminating the big criminals he automatically exterminated the small criminals. **He cleaned house in Atlanta**—with a fearlessness and a justice combined that will live in all history.

The same thing must be done again, if Atlanta is to emerge from her present crime-infested situation. The courts and the court officials must direct their attention to the major criminals, and stop wasting all their ammunition in sniping at the sparrows. And in finding and prosecuting the big game the court sentences must penalize with punishment, and not with contribution baskets. And then and not until then will the situation see the light of a new day.

**What Judge Hopkins did, under conditions more difficult of control than now, can be done again.** And must be done. It is no time for soft pedals, or for mercy—except mercy for the innocent. And there is no sense in getting the innocent. There are a sufficient number of the guilty to occupy the Fulton county courts if they will go after them.

The unwritten law of the Canadian Mounted is "Get your man!" And 99 times out of 100 they get him. That is why the great northwest of Canada today is law-abiding, despite its spaceless prairies.

"Get your man!" must be the slogan of the law enforcement system in Atlanta; **and when he is gotten he must be punished, and not teased.** Then the streets of Atlanta will be free of banditry, the homes free of burglary, and human life will be more expensive than it is today.

# Man's Back Mass Of Wounds From Beating

## Inhuman Treatment Given Prisoners At Workhouse---Spradlin's Guards Applied Lash To Prisoner Every Night---Orderly Prisoners Fared Worse.

**The famous Williams farm of Georgia, owned and bossed by the notorious slave driver, John T. Williams, who is now serving a term in the Georgia state prison on the charge of killing scores of negro laborers, by beating them to death, could have been very little worse than those which have existed at the Knox county workhouse since that institution was taken over by Superintendent J. W. Spradlin, and as is told of in blood curdling stories related by men who served sentences there.** East Tennessee

From the statements given out by attachees of the county institution as well as those who were held as prisoners, there seemed to be a pastime which the inhuman guards about the workhouse gained much pleasure, and that was lashing the naked backs of the prisoners until the blood trickled down to their toes. 10-23-24

Knoxville,

**Beaten Every Night.**

Sam Carrington, young colored man, states that he was arrested early during the month of August on a warrant issued from the office of Esquire T. W. Fields on a charge of vagrancy. A bondsman about that office whose name he did not remember secured the fine imposed upon him and he was to pay it in weekly installments. According to carrington, who resides at 114 Buck Alley, when he missed one of his weekly payments, a deputy sheriff came for him at the home of his mother and threw him in jail from which place he was rushed off to the workhouse without being given a chance to get in touch with friends to effect his release.

He was taken to the workhouse on Tuesday night, August 12, and the very first night he was there a guard pulled him from the bunk on which he slept, after working hard during the day and tied him across a barrel and with a long strap, four inches wide, proceeded to beat him until he could no longer plead for mercy. The same performance was staged by the guard on Wednesday, Thursday Friday nights and on Saturday relatives and friends of Carrington paid the fine and costs in the case against him and he was released.

**Dr. Green Issues Statement.**

Carrington was taken to the home of his mother, 114 Buck alley, in a weakened condition and Dr. H. M. Green, well known local physician, was called to attend him. In talking to a representative of The East Tennessee News, Dr. Green stated:

"I don't know that I have seen a more pitiable case than was presented by the Carrington boy. I dressed eighteen wounds on his body—wounds that had been caused by lashes from a heavy leather strap and so thoroughly bruised was the body from the shoulders of Carrington to his heels that it appeared that some heavy, corrugated object had been rolled over his back.

"The mother of Carrington appealed to a lawyer, but was told that the guard who administered the beatings was the one responsible, and that it would be difficult to make a case against him."

**Ouster Suit Against Spradlin.**

An ouster suit is now being tried in circuit court against J. W. Spradlin, superintendent of the county workhouse, in which other men who have knowledge of the deplorable conditions which have existed about that institution are offering testimony, with a view of having Spradlin ousted.

Evidence is being presented to show that drunkenness and all kinds of disgraceful conduct has been going on about the workhouse and included in the charges against the superintendent, along with these, is the inhuman treatment accorded the prisoners.

Crime—1924. Georgia.

# New Jersey's Lack of Knowledge Thwarts Justice and Makes Condition of Negroes Hard

The action of a few misjudged and ignorant people of New Brunswick, N. J., in trying to prevent the return of the negro Silas Parmore to Seminole county for trial for the brutal murder of Chief of Police Williams of Iron City is going to sadly react and as usual the poor negro will have to pay for the foolism of his friends so called. The officers of that city having captured Parmore and notified the authorities of Seminole county an effort is being made to bring him back to stand trial. There is a smoke screen for negro criminality known as the National Association for Advancement of Colored people that seems to control a few votes in that country. Every time a negro criminal runs from the south to the north, or east this organization for fees and often for none immediately sets out to keep the negro from being brought under the thin excuse that he can't get a fair trial down here or will be lynched. They know just as well as they know their name that they don't believe anything of the kind. Parmore will get a fair trial and for the most brutal and cowardly murder ever known in this part of the country. For the information of the officials of New Brunswick we wish to call their attention to the fact that lynching only follows rape in this country and the most merciless leaders of the mob after the rapist in this country are men that came from the north and stayed here a short while. However Parmore is in no more danger of being lynched here than he is in New Brunswick. If he interfered with some strike up there he would be killed much quicker than he would be down here. Negroes are killed in the south when they rape a white woman. In the north when ever the negro gets to be in the way industrially of the whites they are shot down in coveys and droves. This

[redacted] Post

organization that seems to hold the lash of local fear over the officers of New Brunswick has done more harm to the negro than all the southern people in the ten southern states. It is a pernicious and meddling influence that will continue to interfere until they will force the folks down here almost to reprisals. The writer is thoroughly familiar with the cowardly killing of the officer of Iron City by the negro Parmore. It was the most cowardly on record and now to have the citizens of Jersey to interfere to prevent the man from being brought back to stand his trial will do harm. It will harm the negro and his race far more than any one else.

All through the newspaper reports of the matter in the Daily Home News of New Brunswick is an adroit and subtile effort of the Negro Organization to play on the ignorance of the masses of the people of that town. This nigger preacher would have those people believe that this was some wild country and men ate men as a common thing. Maybe they have enough well read men in that city to know that this is a Native people, all born to the south and no strain of any kind of foreign blood. The home and the hope of the English race is in the unmixed state of the south. Parmore will never be lynched. He will be given a trial and a fair trial but the Negro Organization will not be judge, jury and witness and if he is found guilty he will be punished. He may be hung as capital punishment is the vogue in this state. It is a shame and a disgrace that the sensible people of Jersey will sit down and let a few men who fear negro votes be bull whipped into doing the state of Georgia and Seminole county an injury. There are no better or more law abiding citizens on earth. We don't deny that negroes are lynched in this state for rape and we charge here and now that there is not a white man in the state of New Jersey that will not do the same thing if his wife, mother, sister, or daughter is debauched by a dirty and lustful negro or white man. It seems to have slipped the minds of the officials that white men are lynched even quicker than negroes are for rape. This case should be tried on its merits. What right has the negro organization or any official of Jersey to assume that the negro will not be given a fair trial. There have been more negroes killed up there in riots than ever was killed inthe state of Georgia by lynching. If we judge them as they seem to want to judge us.

This organization, the smoke screen or some slick lawyer drew up a statement for Parmore's wife, she being too ignorant to know anything and very naturally the statement was a pack of lies only told to aid in keeping the man from being sent back to stand a legal trial for the offense of murder. The reading of this statement is too laughable for any one knowing the ignorant woman that it is accredited to, knows too well that it is doctored and fixed up for her. The people here are very naturally indignant at the way this case has been handled. But to read the silly slushy stuff that has been handel out in the New Brunswick paper one can not expect anything else. It seems that "Mrs. Parmore" is being made sort of a black heroine out of. Some kind of a she uncle Tom. It may be that New Jersey will refuse to let Georgia try her own cases, may make herself a shelter and haven for the worst of the black criminals. She may think that it is her duty but we warn them now that they will find it a most serious blunder. Since the exodus of our worst set of negroes north, our chaingangs are about empty and our jails are about all out of business. The best class, the real class of negro citizens did not leave here, nor are they going to leave. They are protected, appreciated and stood by and in no manner intimidated. The worst class left and went north. They are welcome to them but sad to say they are pouring back down here now with tuberculosis by the hundreds. If Jersey wants that class of negro citizens she can have them. But when they turn and go to killing and raping there how will they feel when they come over here after them and can't get them.

We are publishing some extracts from the New Brunswick paper just to let our people see how easy it is for a criminal negro to gull the better class of people in that state if they allo wthe organization to manipulate things for them. How easy it is for them to make fools out of well meaning people. So they can see that they are making things very bad for negroes. There has not been a single one that has left here that has been regretted. But we have thousands here that would be regretted but they will never leave. No successful or well to do or well behaved negro can be fooled into the north. If any man there thinks one can, let him come down here and live awhile and he will soon see the difference. This is a country where there never has been any trouble between the races. And with the same negro lededs they have here ther never will be. There are hundrds of ngroes in this county that would guarantee to the courts there that this negro will not be lynched. Such stuff as that don't fool the negro that has made something out of himself down here. The worst enemy that the good negro has on earth is the sorry nigger. Let a well meaning negro down here begin to get on his feet and make something and see how quick the sorry nigger gets to lying on him and trying to drag him down. They don't want to see him advance. If the National Association for the Advancement of the Colored People wants to do really some good they ought to be at work saving the good negro from the sorry nigger even down here. It is real hard to discuss this matter with a set of folks that don't know anything about conditions. We can only resent the assumption of supreme unction by Jersey and hope that some of them will learn what they are doing. If we were to try and show really what harm is being done the facts would be warped and twisted and used as a reflection. We do know this and that is the very strongest and the most southern of all southern that we have, are the men from the north that come down here and live and learn and he is the man whose hand we have to keep from the negroes throat in this country. If this negro organization dominates Jersey it will be made a refuge for negro criminals and if they do not, Parmore will be brought back here to Georgia and tried. He is in no more danger of being lynched than a saint is. To show our folks what silly things the northern folks will allow put over them, over the front pages of their papers we are reproducing some of the stuff that was published there. The stuff will make a goat laugh.

Governor Walker assures Governor Silzer that there is no danger of Pamore being lynched. Mayor Cordell of Iron City and theofficials of Seminole county also assured them of the same thing but the head of the nigger association in New Brunswick seems to be more worthy of consideration than the governor of the Empire State of the South and the officials thereto. It is about as cheap a bowing to cheap politics as we ever saw. Any one here experiences a hard situation expressing their indignation at such a thing because they know good and well that flabber Casters there would of course hop on it as showing prejudice and undertake to use it to our hurt as a community. Detective Davids evidently has has a hard row to travel but we do not believe that the decent folks of New Brunswick are yet ready to make their town the refuge of the worst class of negro criminals in the country. Just to give an idea of what kind of dope the papers there are handling we print below some of it.

## EXTRADITION GRANTED; HABEAS CORPUS WRIT IS STILL KEEPING NEGRO HERE

TRENTON,—Requisition papers for the return to Georgia of Silas Parmore colored, wanted for the murder of Chief of Police I. Jefferson Williams of Iron City, Ga., were yesterday honored by Governor Silzer. In granting the request for the return of the man, who is now held in the Middlesex county jail, Governor Silzer turned down the plea of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People that Parmore be not returned to the Southern jurisdiction, claiming that he would not get a fair trial and would probably be lynched.

Klemmer Klateissen and William D. Danberry, New Brunswick lawyers, who were appearing before Mr. Silzer to protect the extradition, immediately upon the refusal of the Governor to accede to their request, secured a write of habeas corpus from Vice Chancellor Backes on the ground that the accused was being held in the Middlesex county jail without warrant and that he should be released from custody.

Vice Chancellor Backes fixed Wednesday, December 26, at Newark, when he will hear argument on the writ. The habeas corpus was directed against Frederick Gowen, sheriff of Middlesex; Charles E. Blue, warden of the county jail and Joseph Alday, new chief of police of Iron City, who was here yesterday to return his man to Georgia.

The case of Parmore has attracted widespread interest, because the national colored organization has been fighting strenously to keep the man in New Jersey, declaring that if he were sent to Georgia he would be sent to certain death with no semblance of a constitutional trial.

While he granted the write, Governor Silzed declared in no uncertain terms that should anything happen to Parmore in the way of lynching or mob violence, no other man would be returned to Georgia during the present administration. The Executive asserted he could do nothing else than grant the request of Governor Clifford Walker of Georgia for the return of Parmore to stand trial.

Mr. Silzer said he had the personal guaranteed of Georgia's Governor that Parmore would be accorded a fair trial and that there would be no mob violence.

**Held Lengthy Hearing**

The Governor's decision was announced following a lengthy hearing in the reception room of the Executive offices at the State House here. About twenty-five prominent colored men and women from all over New Jersey were present to protest against the return of the prisoner. There were also present at the hearing Joseph Alday, chief of police of Iron City, who succeeded the slain official, and Jessie L. Cordell, mayor of the town which was about 4,000 inhabitants.

Prosecutor Joseph E. Stricker of Middlesex appeared for the State of New Jersey. Prosecutor Stricker was accompained by Fred A. David, chief county detective of Middlesex county.

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## COLORED CONGREGATION UNITE IN MASS MEETING TO SAVE SOUTHERN NEGRO

Last evening at 9:10 o'clock a mass-meeting was held in the Ebenezer Baptist Church under the auspices of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, to discuss ways and means to aid Silas Parmore, colored in securing a hearing, and a guarantee of a fair trial for his life. Parmore, of Iron City, Ga., is charged with the murder of the chief of police of Iron City, and is at present confined oin jail here.

The meeting drove home the fact to the colored people that they only learn to respect themselves,

he[illegible]ers towards a Negro [illegible]
[illegible]ans [illegible] of murder, that accusati[illegible]
tion, certain and speedy conden[illegible]
to furni[illegible] and the Georgia will have
vidence or [illegible] some mighty concrete
e[illegible]er end. [illegible] they would fight to the
bit[illegible]nterviewe[illegible]d Parmore, and had
had [illegible] secured a straightforward story
which he related.

**NO CHANCE FOR LIFE**

Then Rev. Weathers gave his viewpoint. He declared that he did not care who Parmore was—he only knows that at present the man would have no chance for his life in Georgia, guilty or not guilty. He added that if Parmore were to be extradited to some State like New York or Pennsylvania, neither he nor anyone else would have any objection, because they are sure there of justice. He said that he had seen Parmore, had become convinced by his innocence and therfore has worked the harder to secure justice for him. He then introduced Rev. J. H. Jackson, who gave a practical talk, tending to encourage and advance his race. He maintained that the Negroes were the slowest people to rise for their rights that they should get behind their organization and work. He said that self preservation was one of the greatest reasons why they were working for Parmore.

Next Rev. S. E. Lee was introduced and gave an interesting talk. He tried to make it clear to the audience that he was not trying to shield a known murderer—that he simply was there in defense of human rights. He said that he woud have absolutely no objection whatever if Parmore was to have a fair trial—but that if Governor Silzer had allowed the mayor and chief of police of Iron City, who came after Parmore, to take him, that he (Parmore) would have been lynched.

During a short intermission the audience arose, and sang "John Brown's Body Lies a Moulding in the Grave," with deep feeling.

A short talk was next given by M. Preston, of the "Campus Cafeteria," after he had been formally introduced. "Negroes, as a whole," he said, "do not aid crime." He thought that Parmore's story is straight and true, and in quoting Franklin. "In union there is strength," he showed the need for organization.

Thereupon, Rev. Weathers suggested that Attorney Kalteissen be elevated to the Deacon's board of the church. This was greeted with vociferous applause. Then he introduced Attorney Kalteissen, who remarked as a starter that he would accept the deaconship with the greatest of pleasure. He said that the case of Parmore had come to his notice through Mr. Preston and that he was happy to be a member of the colored people's association. After interviewing Governor Silzer, he had gone to see Parmore, whom he cross-examined in every way possible, finding not the slightest discrepancy in his story. He was convinced of his innocence, and had found that there was no direct evidence against the man. The constitution provides that no hearing is but to get out and make use of those rights, personally and though their organizations, and that to retain these rights they must obey the law, trust in God and "keep their powder dry" Among the speakers were Rev. J. H. Jackson, pastor of Mt. Zoin A. M. E. Church, Rev. J. L. See, Pastor of Sharon Baptist Church; Rev. M. J. Williams, pastor of St. Alban's Episcopal Mission; Rev. C. C. Weathers, pastor of the Ebenazer Baptist Church and Attorney Klemmer Kalteissen, who represents Parmore and the colored organizations.

Rev. C. C. Weathers, during the regular church service, before the mass meeting, endeavored to make the colored folks se the great opportunities that are before them in New Brunswick, and urged them to live upto, and grasp these opportunities.

Rev. Mr. Weathers opened the masse-meeting proper with the church packed to overflowing. He introduced Rev. J. L. Lee, the first speaker of the evening, who told the purpose of the meeting, which he said was "to raise funds to fight the case for justice. He announced that the Governor of New Jersey would give the colored people a hearing Monday. He said that he knew the disposition of [illegible]cessa[illegible]n extradition case. However, the [illegible]ernor will see that he is given a fa[illegible]aring. "If the Governor should sign the extradition ppaers I will go right through to the highest court and will secure a writ of habeas corpus. I don't care what others think as long as I'm right I'll stick to it. I will fight tooth and nail because he is entitled to a fair trial." Attorney Kalteissen was pretty sure that the Governor would not sign the papers. He said that if Parmore is saved, it will be due chiefly to the Negro organization. He repeated that organization was a vital necessity.

Rev. Weathers declared that Lawyer Kaltessen had lived up to his reputation, and added that he wanted the rest to do the same. They responded with an offering of $100 to aid Parmore.

It was moved that delegates be sent to Ternton, along with Attorney Kalteissen. The motion was carried unanimously, and Rev. C. C. Weathers, M. J. Preston, M. G. Thompson, Rev. S. E. Lee, Mrs. Snow, Mrs. Hogan, Rev. J. H. Jackson, Mrs. Herbert, Mrs. Lillian Thompson, Frank Morgan, and Thomas Morgan were elected. The meeting broke up at 11:45 o'clock.

Crime—1924. Georgia.

# "DADDY DID IT," CRIED MUDIE BOY WITNESS DECLARES

Atlanta Constitution

## Youth Made Statement at Home of Neighbor's After Discovery of Bodies, Claim. 1-4-24

### EXPERT WITNESS FAILS TO FIX BLAME

## Defense Battles for Life of Negro by Attempting to Refute Circumstantial Evidence.

Savannah, Ga., January 3.—(Special.)—"Daddy did it; Daddy did it. I'm not insane, Daddy is crazy, Daddy's crazy" are words said by Lee Roy Tyson, witness in the trial of Caesar Eugee, negro, for the murder of Mrs. Agnes Mudie and her young baby in November, to have been uttered by Lester Mudie, son of the murdered woman. The remarks are said to have been made at the home of Mrs. J. M. Byrum, a neighbor of the Mudies, just after the discovery of the bodies by Mudie and the boy.

Tyson said that the boy appeared excited and that he had just previously rushed in and said "mother and little sister have been murdered."

The trial will be concluded Friday, it is believed tonight, the state having rested its case, the defense completed its testimony and the rebuttal testimony apparently almost through.

Dr. Victor Bassett, city health officer who analyzed the blood found upon an ax, which Eugee is said to have borrowed the morning of the murder, was unable to say whether the blood smears were human blood, nor could he say that stains on clothing found in the room were blood.

The defense strove to shift the suspicion from the negro and break down the circumstantial evidence circling him and led out to fasten suspicion upon some other person.

Much of the testimony had to do with the movements and actions and manner and utterances of Mudie himself, the husband of the murdered woman. A gruesome bit of silent testimony was a shirt, apparently stained with blood, said to have been found hidden with other clothing behind a trunk in the Mudie home and damp when found the morning after the killing. Blood tests, it was said, however, failed to reveal facts of value in the stains upon the garment which was examined chemically by city bacteriological officers.

## NEGRO IS CONVICTED OF DOUBLE MURDER OF WHITES

Montgomery Advertiser 1-5-24

**Savannah Court Jury Recommends Mercy for Caesar Eugee.**

SAVANNAH, GA., Jan. 4.—Caesar Eugee, a negro, was found guilty with a recommendation to mercy by a jury in the superior court here today for the murder of Mrs. Agnes Mudie and her two year old daughter, Doris, on November 21. Eugee was immediately sentenced to the penitentiary for life.

The double murder was committed at the country home of the Mudie family some time on November 21. The bodies were found by the husband and father when he returned from his work in Savannah at night. The victims had been beated to death in the home. Robbery was the apparent motive. Eugee declared he was innocent of the crime.

## Find Negro Guilty On Murder Charge; Given Life Term

Brunswick, Ga., February 10.—(Special.)—William Cohen, 18-year-old negro, was Friday found guilty of the murder of Mart Bunkley, white Glynn county farmer, according to a verdict returned late before midnight, and was sentenced to a life term in the penitentiary. The verdict was guilty with a recommendation for mercy.

Atlanta Constitution

The verdict was reached after the jury had deliberated for over 24 hours, and after practically all hope for anything but a disagreement had been given up. Many ballots were taken, with there being at no time any question as to the negro's guilt. The jury was divided between a verdict of guilty with a recommendation and one for straight first degree murder. The presiding judge left the jury at nightfall with instructions to agree.

2-11-24

The many unusual features of the case attracted wide attention. The dead man was missing for more than a month before his body was found in a swamp a short distance from where he was last seen walking along a railroad track with Cohen.

The recommendation for mercy is thought to have been returned because practically all of the evidence was circumstantial.

## Negro Confesses To Slaying Man After Quarrel

Atlanta Constitution

Brunswick, Ga., January 30.—(Special.)—Mart Bunkley, white man, found slain near here Tuesday afternoon, who had been missing since Christmas eve, was killed for the amount of $4 and a few Christmas fruits, candies and toys he had for his four little children, it developed here today. William Cohen, negro, 17, was arrested this morning, is alleged to have confessed that he had killed the white man, taken the cash, his luggage, and had then dragged the body into the woods and then into a small dense swamp.

The negro is claimed by officers to have told that he accompanied the man up the railroad track and shot him in the head with a single barrel shotgun. The negro claimed that he and Bunkley had a quarrel on the previous day.

1-31-24

Although the negro made the confession in the presence of two or three officers and later signed a written confession, late this afternoon, when confronted again, he changed his story, and stated that while he was implicated in the killing, the man who really shot Bunkley was Will Hardwick, a white man residing in the vicinity.

He said Hardwick shot Bunkley, robbed him of the $4, gave the negro one dollar and together they dragged the body into the swamp.

The white man implicated has been around the scene where the body was found all day. Officers say they will arrest him tonight. Cohen, in retracting his first statement, claimed that he was afraid at the time and when quesioned so closely decided to confess.

Officers, however, believe that he alone committed the crime.

## ATLANTA ARRESTS ON DRUNK CHARGES BROKEN LAST YEAR

The crime waves which swept Atlanta in 1922 and 1923 brought more arrests than were made in the city in any year since 1912, according to the table compiled by Lonnie L. Stone, clerk in the office of Chief of Police James L. Beavers.

Atlanta Independent 2-7-24

In spite of the fact that the nation was in the grip of prohibition during both of these years, the number of drunks arrested far exceeds that in other years, and the 7,003 jailed on charges of drunkenness in 1923 constitute an unquestioned record.

### Record of 1922.

The year of 1922 leads the list with the number arrested for disorderly conduct with 24,270, and there were 52 killings in that year.

The following table was compiled at the request of United States Representative George H. Pinkham:

1913—Drunks, 3,138; disorderly conduct, 9,286; murders, 16.

1914—Drunks, 2,936; disorderly conduct, 9,724; murders, 21.

1915—Drunks, 3,414; disorderly conduct, 8,999; murders, 17.

1916—Drunks, 2,715; disorderly conduct, 8,735; murders, 16.

1917—Drunks, 1,923; disorderly conduct, 8,004; murders, 6.

1918—Drunks, 2,183; disorderly conduct, 9,910; murders, 19.

1919—Drunks, 3,156; disorderly conduct, 7,978; murders, 47.

1920—Drunks, 3,998; disorderly conduct, 7,864; murders, 44.

1921—Drunks, 4,941; disorderly conduct, 13,152; murders, 35.

1922—Drunks, 6,555; disorderly conduct, 24,270; murders, 52.

1923—Drunks, 7,003; disorderly conduct, 12,771; murders, 40.

### 2,044 Arrests Made.

The report for January, 1924, shows that a total of 2,044 arrests were made. Of those, 448 were drunks; 785 disorderly conduct; 141 occupants of dives; 140 for idling and loitering; 139 for violation of

DEC 24 1923

## THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

*"People will not look forward to posterity who never look backward to their ancestors."*

## Would Try Truth Drug Out.

An Associated Press dispatch from Macon informs us that lawyers for a negro who has been twice convicted of the crime of murder and who is now to stand trial a third time, have petitioned the judge to allow the negro to be given a dose of what is known as scopolamin, or a drug which compels the patient to whom it is administered to tell the truth. The same petition asks that the chief witness against the condemned man also be given a dose of this medicine. The judge has not decided what he will do in the matter.

Under the law, as we understand it, no one can be compelled to testify either for or against himself. If a defendant desires to make a statement he is permitted to do so, but it is not under oath and the jury may or may not believe what he says.

It would seem, in view of this provision of the law, that if the defendant in this case, or a defendant in any case, were forcibly given this medicine and it should cause him to tell a different story of the crime from that which he has already told, it would be equivalent to compelling him to testify.

But this is not all. Would the testimony of a man who is forcibly given a dose of this medicine that will compel him to say that which he would not say if he were not under its influence be competent

The case in Bibb will be watched with more than usual interest because one of the great fundamental principles of law appears to be involved in it.

## NEW TRIAL DENIED NEGRO WHO SLEW MOTHER AND TOT

Atlanta Constitution 2-27-24

Savannah, Ga., March 11.—(Special.)—Judge Jeter W. Mellum in superior court this afternoon overruled every point adduced by attorneys for Caesar Eugee, in a motion for a new trial. Eugee was convicted some weeks ago of the killing of Mrs. Agnes Mudie and her baby daughter. He was sentenced to life imprisonment.

The case attracted much attention as the slaying was done with an ax or some other similar instrument, at the Mudie home near here.

### Another Horror in Georgia

SOMETHING will just have to be done about Georgia. Such lawlessness and disregard for the opinion of mankind must not be permitted to continue longer. If it is granted that Georgia should not be criticized for her merry lynching parties nor be condemned for the habit of jovial Georgians of storming jails and burning persons they do not like because, after all, Georgia is the State that contains Atlanta, the most progressive, the richest, the happiest, the most health-giving, the best-governed, the best-paved, the best-behaved, the most modest and at the same time the most justly proud city of this or any other hemisphere—if all this is granted, there still remains a grievance against Georgia.

For no longer ago than Friday, a Georgia judge sentenced a woman in Georgia to be hanged. What if she did, according to the indictment, join with her husband in murdering her aged mother-in-law? What if the jury did, after a full hearing and after deliberation, return a verdict of guilty of murder in the first degree? What if the law of Georgia does prescribe that such a verdict automatically imposes a death sentence? Can such a thing be in free America? Have we no chivalry left?

Do Georgians intend to tell the world that a woman in Georgia cannot get away with murder? Do these men belonging to what Mr. Cobb calls old or Southern families mean that there is no difference between the status of a woman murderer and that of a man murderer? It cannot be. No! A thousand times, no! Hang a woman merely because she murdered another woman, shot her down in cold blood! The thing would be preposterous, if it were not true. Hold that because women have been legislated and adjudicated to the same plane as that formerly hold in meekness and humility by men alone they are to be accountable to the law as men formerly were! Even the suggestion would be unthinkable, if it had not been actually advanced.

Georgia is preparing to step outside the pale of civilized States. And something will just have to be done about it. We must not let Georgia work another hor-

### *"TIGER" AS ACCESSORY*

Two young Baldwin county white men—not unintelligent looking from their pictures as published—have just been convicted of a grave capital offense, committed in Jones county, and have been sentenced to hang on June 27.

While denying the charge, which was offset by the identification of both by the aged victim, both defendants admitted that they were "tanked up" on home-brewed "hootch" bought, as they alleged, from a bootlegger across the line in Bibb county.

In passing sentence Judge James P. Park, of the Ocmulgee circuit, made request of the officers that the identification of the bootlegger, who sold the young men "hootch" that would so sear their moral senses and fire their brutal passions as to make them capable of such an offense, be established, and declared he would make him an "accessory to the crime," in addition to the ordinary charge of violating the prohibition laws.

The purpose of this comment is first to again emphasize the trail of crime and sorrow that is left by the "white lightning" that is so freely sold and consumed in Georgia, and everywhere; and, second, to commend the action of Judge Park, and urge that every trial judge in Georgia make the bootlegger accessory to any crime that is committed through the effects of the concoctions that he passes on to the patronizing public.

If this is done rigidly, bootlegging will be materially minimized in this state.

Today it is one of the outstanding evils, and an ever-present menace to the morals as well as to the lives and limbs of those who drink the craze-creating brew, and a menace to society in which the brain-bewildered hootch drinkers mingle.

These young men would not, in all reasonable possibility, have committed the crime which they must expiate with their lives, had it not been for the hip-pocket flask of a concoction that dissipated every fiber of manhood and every moral instinct. They would not have been possessed of the hootch had there not been a ready bootlegger to pass it out for the "easy money" that the bootlegging game provides.

The moral is a gripping one, and accentuates the necessity for an aroused public conscience against the deplorable situation that exists in every county and in every nook and corner of this country. While in this case the crime is one to attract more than passing attention, there are lesser crimes committed as a result of the flood of home-brew in every community and almost every day of the week. The victim of a drunk-crazed speed fiend on the public highway is a victim of home-brew. If the victim is killed it is nothing short of murder. Manditry, shooting scrapes, homicides of every degree occur daily, and are traceable to home-brew. It kills; it causes its human agents of moral depravity to kill.

If every crime in which liquor plays a part is laid not only at the door of the direct offender, but at the door of the accessory who supplied the liquor, there will be a revolution in the present lax and almost disreputable enforcement situation.

Judge Park's plan to find the bootlegger in the Jones county felony ought to become a fixed determination of every trial judge in this state and nation.

### *NEGRESS IS FOUND WITH THROAT CUT; SUSPECT 'RIPPER'*

The badly decomposed body of a negress, apparently about 17 years old, was discovered lying face downward in a vacant lot on Pryor street near the Southern Belt Line railroad Friday night. Her throat was slashed from ear to ear, and police believe it to be the heinous work of some "Jack the Ripper."

Three negro women have been found with their throats slashed in the last two weeks. In each instance, the shoes and stockings of the victims have been removed, as well as all jewelry and finery.

Joe Harris, of 248 Glenn street, and Otis Hightower, of 228 Windsor street, negroes, discovered the body of the murdered negress Friday night about 9 o'clock. They immediately notified police, and detectives already searching for the elusive "Ripper" were put on the case.

### Negro, 17, Hanged For Upson Murder

THOMASTON, Ga., August 16.—Harrison Brown, 17-year-old negro, was hanged here Friday afternoon at 12:30 for the murder of Oscar Mann, a few months ago. Sheriff S. S. Lee sprung the trap.

The negro's neck was broken and the body was taken down after 12 minutes, Drs. McKenzie, Harris and Carter pronouncing him dead. There were several hundred present to hear the last words of the doomed youth.

Crime—1924. Georgia.

## NEGRO CONFESSES HE ROBBED COUPLE, BIBB SHERIFFS SAY

Macon, Ga., March 20.—(Special.) The sheriff's office announced at midnight that a full confession of the robbery of Miss Leila Lawton was taken from her escort, A. J. Smith, Tuesday night, in a holdup near the city had been made by the negro, Ulysses Williams. The negro, however, denied that he was armed. Gilchrist was lacerated, and he stated that he broke the glass in the side of the automobile with his bare fist.

As he did so, he said, the young woman jumped from the opposite side of the car and started to run. He said he pursued her and finally caught her. Seeing a diamond glittering in the moonlight, he tore it from her finger, he said. Then he ran home and buried the ring.

Smith was only a few yards away, getting help, the negro said, when he reached his home.

Two other negroes now held here, witnessed the robbery the sheriff stated.

The ring was recovered, but a bracelet, taken at the same time, has not been found.

## ORDER ROUND-UP OF LEISURE CLASS

A round-up of the leisure class of Atlanta's darktown population is in progress with a special "vagrancy squad" of police making a drive into every known loafing place in darktown, it was announced Thursday by Alderman Jesse W. Armistead, member of the police committee of council.

The drive is part of the effort of council and the city administration to recruit the city construction department labor gangs up to effective strength. The department has been running shorthanded for common labor for several weeks.

Chief of Construction William A. Hansell announced that common labor would be paid 25 cents an hour instead of 20 cents as heretofore, following approval by Councilman C. D. Knight, street committee chairman, and Alderman J. R. Bachman, finance committee chairman. Chief Hansell said the new scale would go into effect today and probably would help considerably in getting more "free" labor on the streets.

Recorder George E. Johnson will be asked to mete out the maximum penalty to vagrants brought into his court, giving them sentences in the stockade where they will be available for use on the streets, if they are not able to offer satisfactory evidence that they are employed.

Chief Hansell said that work on the Forrest avenue and McDonough road improvement projects and on repairs throughout the city will be rushed as soon as his labor gangs are built up to normal strength.

ATLANTA, GA.

MAR 21 1924

## Confesses Robbing Macon Girl in Auto

MACON, Ga., March 21.—Full confession from Ulysses Williams, negro, Thursday cleared up the mystery of the robbery of Miss Leila Lawton, in Clinton Road Tuesday night. Prior to the clean breast of the affair made by the negro, deputies had induced him to talk and as a result the diamond ring taken from her was recovered.

Thursday afternoon Williams accompanied the officers to his home and uncovered the diamond taken from Miss Lawton, hidden in the ground in front of an abandoned house next door. The negro denied that a watch was stolen, although Miss Lawton and Smith claim that one was taken from the young woman. Thursday while some of the deputies were tracing Williams' actions on the night of the hold-up, others carried him to the spot where the ring was found. The negro was trailed from the time he left his place of employment until within a few minutes of the time the hold-up occurred in the Clinton Road.

ATLANTA, GA.

MAR 31 1924

## CONDUCTOR KILLS NEGRO PASSENGER

One negro was killed and physicians state that another will die as the result of shooting scrapes Sunday night. C. B. Hulsey, conductor of a Decatur line streetcar, who is said to have killed Will Randolph, is held without bond for DeKalb county officials, and Albert Wingo, negro, charged with having shot Leroy Thomas in an argument over a bottle of whisky, is held without bond pending Thomas' recovery.

Hulsey claims that he shot in self-defense. He stated that a number of negroes were riding on the car of which he was in charge and that several of them were intoxicated. As the car stopped in Decatur, one of the negroes began arguing with Hulsey over his fare, and it is claimed that Randolph then took part in the argument.

Hulsey says that he shot Randolph when the negro drew a knife. He died almost instantly. Hulsey started back to Atlanta, intending to notify police, but was arrested by Detective Davis, who boarded the car at Auburn avenue and Ivy street.

Thomas and Wingo are said to have been arguing over the ownership of some whisky at Gilmer and Butler streets, the quarrel culminating when Wingo fired three shots, all taking effect. Thomas was taken to Grady hospital, where his condition is critical. Wingo was arrested by Detectives Wiley and Wills.

## NEGRO CONFESSES TO RECENT MACON HOLDUP

**Alleged That Diamond Ring Was Found in His Yard**

MACON, GA., March 20.—Ulysses Williams, negro, confessed at midnight tonight to the hold up Tuesday night of Miss Leila Lawton, who was taken from her escort, J. A. Smith, while the couple were riding in an automobile on a road near here, according to the sheriff's office.

The confession, officers said, followed the finding of a diamond ring buried in the yard at the negro's home late today. The ring, it was said, was identified as one snatched from the young woman's hand. The negro denied being armed, and said he smashed the glass in the door of the coupe in which Miss Lawton and Smith were riding, with his fist.

MAY 11 1924

## 10,000 HOMICIDES RECORD FOR 1923

### Statistics Cover Country; Russum Complimented On Way Records Kept Here.

More than 10,000 homicides were committed in the United States during the year 1923, it is shown in figures recently compiled by Dr. Frederick L. Hoffman, noted statistician, who declares it is his belief that many more murders were committed during the year and hidden under the guise of suicides and natural deaths.

A large increase is shown in the homicide list of most of the larger cities of the country, including Chicago and St. Louis.

A decrease is noted in the annual number of lynchings, figures of Dr. Hoffman show. There were 252 lynchings in 1892, to compare with 33 for 1923, according to his figures. He also points out that but 573 lynchings have taken place in the last decade as compared with 736 in the previous decade.

Figures of Coroner J. D. Russum for Birmingham show that, although a large number of homicides committed here last year were with firearms, a great many were staged with knives and other like instruments. Many of these deaths the coroner attributes to the large negro population, whose popular weapon is conceded to be a razor or other sharp instrument. Several axe murders are also included in the Birmingham list.

The local coroner's office is receiving unusual praise for the complete record it has kept on violent deaths. Coroner Russum is in receipt of a letter from the health department of Memphis in which he is congratulated on the complete records in his office of violent deaths, which the letter declares will outrank many of the largest cities, and is the most complete found by a recent official of the department while on a tour of many Southern cities for data on an article on crime which will be published by the Memphis health department.

A nation-wide attack on the promiscuous sale of firearms is being sponsored by Dr. Hoffman, it is stated, which, in his attack, he points out that such sale has been responsible for a great majority of murders.

Columbus Ga. Enquirer-Sun May 2 1924

## The Disgraceful Treatment of Two Negro Debtors.

There has been no comment in the ENQUIRER-SUN on the case of Philip Hirsch, charged with assaulting and falsely imprisoning two negroes who had failed to keep up their payments to the National Credit Clothing Company, of which Hirsch was then manager. Editorial expression on this matter has been withheld until there could be a hearing in the courts. When the case against Hirsch was called before Judge Arthur Lynch, the defendant failed to appear. Judge Lynch before forfeiting Hirsch's bond heard the statement of the arresting officer. At the same time Solicitor General Flournoy stated that the case would be brought to the attention of the grand jury. Judge Lynch then ordered Hirsch's bond forfeited and notified the police to arrest him if he was still in Columbus.

The readers of the ENQUIRER-SUN have been kept in touch with the details of the attack made upon Eugene Graddic, a negro man, and Rosa Lee Rosier a negro woman. Following the assault, Philip Hirsch locked the two negroes together for a number of hours in the basement of the National Credit Clothing Store. The whole affair was an attempt on the part of Hirsch, then manager of National Credit Clothing Store, to collect money past due, or alleged to be past due by the company's representative. The foregoing are the facts in brief. Hirsch, by his failure to stand trial, corroborates them, and the corporation, which owns and operates both the National Credit Clothing Store, and a similar local store, going under the name of Askin and Marine, settled out of court the suit for charges which the negroes had instituted.

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Crime — 1924. Georgia.

# NEGRO CONFESSES HE ROBBED COUPLE, BIBB SHERIFFS SAY

Macon, Ga., March 20.—(Special.) The sheriff's office announced at midnight that a full confession of the robbery of [illegible] had been taken from [illegible] Tuesday night, in a holdup near the city limits. [illegible] was made by the negro [illegible] Williams, [illegible] he was [illegible] broke the glass in the side of the automobile with his bare fist.

As he did so, he said, the young woman jumped from the opposite side of the car and started to run. He said he pursued her and finally caught her. Seeing a diamond glittering in the moonlight, he tore it from her finger, he said. Then he ran home and buried the ring.

Smith was only a few yards away, getting help, the negro said, when he reached his home.

Two other negroes now held here, witnessed the robbery the sheriff stated.

The ring was recovered, but a bracelet, taken at the same time, has not been found.

# ORDER ROUND-UP OF LEISURE CLASS

A round-up of the leisure class of Athens's darktown population is in progress [illegible] as a special vagrancy squad of police, making a drive into every known loafing place in darktown, [illegible] Thursday by Alderman Jesse W. Armistead, member of the police committee of council.

The drive is part of the effort of council and the city administration to recruit the city construction department labor gangs up to effective strength. The department has been running shorthanded for common labor for several weeks.

Chief of Construction William A. Hansell announced that common labor would be paid 25 cents an hour instead of 20 cents as heretofore, following approval by Councilman C. D. Knight, street committee chairman, and Alderman J. R. Bachman, finance committee chairman. Chief Hansell said the new scale would go into effect today and probably would help considerably in getting more "free" labor on the streets.

Recorder George E. Johnson will be asked to mete out the maximum penalty to vagrants brought into his court, giving them sentences in the stockade where they will be available for use on the streets, if they are not able to offer satisfactory evidence that they are employed.

Chief Hansell said that work on the Forrest avenue and McDonough road improvement projects and on repairs throughout the city will be rushed as soon as his labor gangs are built up to normal strength.

ATLANTA GA

MAR 21 1924

# CONDUCTOR KILLS NEGRO PASSENGER

One negro was killed and physicians state that another will die as the result of shooting scrapes Sunday night. C. B. Hulsey, conductor of a Decatur line streetcar, who is said to have killed Will Randolph, is held without bond for DeKalb county officials, and Albert Wingo, negro, charged with having shot Leroy Thomas in an argument over a bottle of whisky, is held without bond pending Thomas' recovery.

Hulsey claims that he shot in self-defense. He stated that a number of negroes were riding on the car of which he was in charge and that several of them were intoxicated. As the car stopped in Decatur, one of the negroes began arguing with Hulsey over his fare, and it is claimed that Randolph then took part in the argument.

Hulsey says that he shot Randolph when the negro drew a knife. He died almost instantly. Hulsey started back to Atlanta, intending to notify police, but was arrested by Detective Davis, who boarded the car at Auburn avenue and Ivy street.

Thomas and Wingo are said to have been arguing over the ownership of some whisky at Gilmer and Butler streets, the quarrel culminating when Wingo fired three shots, all taking effect. Thomas was taken to Grady hospital, where his condition is critical. Wingo was arrested by Detectives Wiley and Wills.

MAR 21 1924

# 10,000 HOMICIDES RECORD FOR 1923

## Statistics Cover Country; Russ Compliments On Way Records Kept Here.

More than 10,000 homicides were committed in the United States during the year 1923, it is shown in figures recently compiled by Dr. Frederick L. Hoffman, noted statistician, who declares it is his belief that many more murders were committed during the year and hidden under the guise of suicides and natural deaths.

A large increase is shown in the homicide list of most of the larger cities of the country, including Chicago and St. Louis.

A decrease is noted in the annual number of lynchings, figures of Dr. Hoffman show. There were 252 lynchings in 1892, to compare with 33 for 1923, according to his figures. He also points out that but 573 lynchings have taken place in the last decade as compared with 736 in the previous decade.

Figures of Coroner J. D. Russum for Birmingham show that, although a large number of homicides committed here last year were with firearms, a great many were staged with knives and other like instruments. Many of these deaths the coroner attributes to the large negro population, whose popular weapon is conceded to be a razor or other sharp instrument. Several axe murders are also included in the Birmingham list.

The local coroner's office is receiving unusual praise for the complete record it has kept on violent deaths. Coroner Russum is in receipt of a letter from the health department of Memphis in which he is congratulated on the complete records in his office of violent deaths, which the letter declares will outrank many of the largest cities, and is the most complete found by a recent tour of many Southern cities for data on an article on crime which will be published by the Memphis health department.

A nation-wide attack on the promiscuous sale of firearms is being sponsored by Dr. Hoffman, it is stated, which, in his attack, he points out that such sale has been responsible for a great majority of murders.

MAR 21 1924

# CONFESSES ROBBING Macon Girl in Auto

MACON, Ga., March 21.—Full confession from Ulysses Williams, negro, Thursday cleared up the mystery of the robbery of Miss Leila Lawton, in Clinton Road Tuesday night. Prior to the clean breast of the affair made by the negro, deputies had induced him to talk and as a result the diamond ring taken from her was recovered.

Thursday afternoon Williams accompanied the officers to his home and uncovered the diamond taken from Miss Lawton, hidden in the ground in front of an abandoned house next door. The negro denied that a watch was stolen, although Miss Lawton and Smith claim that one was taken from the young woman. Thursday while some of the deputies were tracing Williams' actions on the night of the hold-up, others carried him to the spot where the ring was found. The negro was trailed from the time he left his place of employment until within a few minutes of the time the hold-up occurred in the Clinton Road

MAY 11 1924

# NEGRO CONFESSES TO RECENT MACON H

**Alleged That Diamond Ring Was Found in His Yard**

MACON, GA., March 20.—Ulysses Williams, negro, confessed at midnight tonight the hold up Tuesday night of Miss [illegible] from her car [illegible] on a road near here, according to Sheriff's office officers.

The confession, officers said, followed the finding of a diamond ring buried in the yard of the negro late today. The ring was identified as one snatched from the young woman's hand. The negro being armed, and said he smashed the glass in the door of the coupe in which Miss Lawton and Smith were riding, with his fist.

Columbus Ga Enquirer
May 3 1924

# The Disgraceful Treatment of Two Negro Debtors.

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rough styles which find a vogue elsewhere. It should also make foreign corporations more careful in their selection of representatives. Indeed it might be well for them to glance through a history of Georgia and learn that this great state was settled originally by immigrants who left England because they were persecuted for debts.

Particularly interesting at this time would be a reading of "Little Dorritt" by Dickens. The father of the heroine was held in old Marshalsea prison on account of debt. Something which does not happen to a person in Georgia these days unless the creditor's representative happens to operate a cellar as a private prison.

Wrote Ga News

JUN 19 1924

## Crimes of Mean Liquor

"The whole state of Georgia shudders over the tragic outcome of the Jones county crime for which two young boys of Milledgeville have been sentenced to hang says the Augusta Chronicle. These youths are victims of maudlin conditions brought about by the use of mean liquor. It is horrible to contemplate that such a condition could be brought about which would induce or even permit these youngsters to even think for a moment of perpetrating a crime such as is ascribed to them."—Moultrie Observer.

"And then let us take stock of the unfortunate affairs at Soperton where Editor Flanders was shot by a member of council, a sort of self-imposed guardian of the community and its good name—when he was in his liquor. The assailant of the news-paper man was reported as under the influence of mean liquor when the shooting which has come so dangerously near proving a real tragedy. His aim was to make it a tragedy—and it would have been so had his liquor been less staggering, blinding in its influence. This man was crazy when he cursed and then shot his neighbor—and it was mean liquor doing the work."

"Down at Tybee is a hotel proprietor who is today in the shadows because of a drunken hotel clerk—so drunken and set in his habitual depraved liquor chasing—resorted to his gun when he was under the influence of mean liquor. Here is something that ought to prove food for thought of the liquor chaser. It ought to help some of the fellows stay out of its company.

We believe most of the crimes of the negro for which he is lynched in this country is due to the influence of the rottenest sort of mean liquor. The negro who dares do the worst is most of the time crazed by the stuff he drinks. Men may be careless about the tigers and hell-raisers—but what they are costing this country—what they are to cost us before it is shut down hard and fast—is awful to comprehend.

And yet some of us prate about individual freedom—human liberty—and permit the stuff to be made sold and consumed.—Cordele Dispatch.

## CLEMENCY FOR NEGRO SLAYER IS OPPOSED

Constitution

A petition signed by approximately 450 Atlanta citizens urging that the law be allowed to take its course in the case of Frank Johnson, negro, condemned slayer of Pete G. Poolos, was presented to Governor Walker Thursday by A. S. Grove and H. H. Turner, attorneys for George D. Poolos, cousin of the slain man.

The petition reviews the case, declaring that the negro killed Pete G. Poolos and struck Pete S. Poolos in the head with a revolver when the two caught him in the act of burglarizing the Forsyth restaurant, corner Forsyth and Alabama streets, on November 21, 1922.

7-22-24

Johnson was convicted of murder in Fulton superior court and sentenced to hang. The supreme court refused to intervene, but before the negro was executed Governor Walker granted a 90-day respite to investigate the evidence, stating at the time that he desired to see full justice done in view of the fact that the negro had experienced difficulty in paying for legal aid.

The petition presented Friday points out that the state's highest tribunal reviewed the evidence and upheld the lower court, that full protection of the law should be granted the foreign-born citizens of Atlanta, and urges the governor to let the law take its course.

### *A SERIOUS PROBLEM.*

Columbia State

So many crimes are being committed these days by mere children, as to illustrate, the 14-year-old axe-murderer of Columbia, S. C., who hacked his aunt to death, and seriously and perhaps fatally wounded her two children; and others of equal or less horror, recorded almost daily in the newspapers, that the adult conscience of the country is being aroused as to its own unmistakable responsibility.

6-20-24

There are perhaps many causes assignable for the laxity of moral stamina among the young people.

In Atlanta a day or two ago two boys of 18, of good families, were arrested for driving an automobile while intoxicated. They were, in their drunk-crazed condition, both attempting to drive the machine at the same time, and in its wild rampage of zig-zagging several people were hurt, or terrorized, and the machine finally came to the end of a perilous journey by running into an immovable object.

The increase in the consumption of alcoholic drinks among young men is alarming.

Not only are boys of tender years drinking to excess, thereby making their moral instincts callous, but it too often happens that girls are lured by the hip-pocket flask, coupled with the automobile joy ride, and the laxity of parental restraint.

To this may be added the public dance hall, in many of which there is not the right kind, or certainly inadequate, chaperonage.

Again, the lack of coordination of a child's brain with its hand, due to parental indulgence and failure of proper discipline, is another. The brain frequently is not properly trained to direct the hand, and the latter becomes wild, careless, indifferent, indolent, through this lack of proper mental directing force.

In the swing of popular sentiment against the extremity of old-time parental intolerance, the pendulum has undoubtedly gone too far.

In the present age of political and civic and business activities, involving the time of both the men and the women, the children have in too many cases gone undisciplined until their attributes of mind and body and heart and soul have become unbalanced, the one out of harmony with another.

And then, the force of influence is a great factor.

In this respect the picture producer is not without his share of responsibility with the parent who permits a child to thus become obsessed with the too often displayed allurements of sin.

The problem or sex drama on the screen may carry its moral, but the girl-child sees more the glamor and the tinsel of the primrose.

The boy-child sees in the blood-and-thunder melodramas of the old west the reward of daring—perhaps of daring in violation of law—and the cowboy bandit becomes more of a hero in the youthful mind than the sheriff who feebly pursues him.

It is a serious problem—this wave of crime among the young people—and it is a problem that ought to be dealt with at once, firmly and in the light of duty rather than of impulse.

## ENRAGED NEGRO THREATENS CROWD

Constitution

Running amuck after he had been discharged by B. M. Fulmer, manager of the Gulf Refining company filling station at West Peachtree street and North avenue, a negro said to be George Demong, Saturday night endangered lives of a score of people when he poured a volley of shots into the crowd, threatened Farmer's life and escaped a few minutes before police arrived on the scene.

Demong, who had been employed as a porter at the filling station for several months, was paid off and discharged early Saturday night, Farmer told Call Officers Williams and McDaniel, who investigated the case.

**Fires Shots Into Air.**

At about 11 o'clock he appeared near the station and fired several shots in the air. Running to the other side of the filling station the negro again fired.

A crowd gathered quickly but the negro's revolver held them at bay. Several persons started toward the man to take his gun, but his threat to kill any person who crossed the imaginary line peremptorily halted the advance.

In the meantime Farmer had notified police, and only a few minutes before arrival of officers the negro suddenly fired several shots toward the crowd, wheeled, and fled down North avenue, disappearing in an alley. Police combed the neighborhood in a futile search.

It is thought that the man spent his pay for a revolver, ammunition and liquor, and returned to wreak vengeance on his late employer.

**Scoggins Is Arrested.**

As the result of flashing his revolver in a restaurant at 477 Marietta street Saturday night M. F. Scoggins, of Griffin street, is held at police headquarters under $500 bond, and faces charges of drunkenness, possessing liquor, carrying concealed weapons and pointing a revolver at another.

According to E. J. Crane, manager of the restaurant, Scoggins entered the place and while deliberating over whether to order fried chicken or hash, suddenly decided not to eat, and, jerking a revolver from his belt, pointed it at Crane. Thinking that the man intended robbery Crane

Crime—1924.

Indiana.

# Diamond Dies For Crime He Tried To Shift On Negro

Michigan City, Ind., Nov. 26.—Acting in a defiant and unconcerned manner, Harry Diamond, smilingly met his Maker as he was sent into the unknown by the electrocution route at 12:04 Friday morning at the Indiana state prison. He went to his death smilingly, although he had admitted his guilt earlier in the day he declared to the officials that he was no more guilty of murder than they whom the state had designated to take his life.

**Killed Wife for Fortune.**

Diamond, who was 24 years old when the crime was committed, was charged by the prosecution with the killing of his wife to obtain her fortune. Mrs. Diamond was 42 years old and had willed her young husband a large portion of her wealth. She drew a new will just before her death, leaving an estate estimated at $50,000 to her six children.

The legagl battle began with the case being taken from Lake county on a change of venue to Valpariso, in Porter county. A jury found Diamond guilty of murder June 7, 1923, after deliberating two hours and 45 minutes, and he was subsequently sentenced to die in the electric chair on October 12. A few days before the time of his electrocution he was granted a reprieve until November 14 to allow his attorney a chance to apply for executive clemency, which was refused and the date of November 14 allowed to stand as the date of death.

Crime – 1924.

Illinois.

# THE TRIBUNE IS CAUGHT IN ANOTHER LIE

## Newspaper Puts Race Issue in Crime

The Chicago Tribune, ever-ready to stir up race hatred and twist facts to further their propaganda against our people, printed the following dispatch Monday morning:

**White Man Shoots Negro for Wedding His Sister**

Marriage between his sister and H. F. Reed, colored, caused Walter Shaw, white, 1654 Montvale avenue, to shoot the Negro yesterday. Reed was waunded in the arm.

Here are the true facts secured from relatives of the deceased by a Defender reporter:

### How it Happened

William T. Reed, 63, 1654 Montvale Ave., Morgan Park, was shot to death Saturday night in his home by Mack Shaw, nephew of Reed's wife, when an argument arose between the two regarding the observance of the Sabbath day. Reed is a Seventh Day Adventist. Shaw escaped and has not been captured. He is married and lived at the Reed home.

Reed was found at the home of Samuel Hall, a neighbor, when Officers Mark and O'Bren of the Ninth district hurried to investigate the shooting. "Mack shot me," he said, but would not tell the reason. He was rushed to the Pullman works' hospital, where he died.

From Mrs. Reed and Mrs. Shaw the police learned the cause of the shooting. They were told that Mrs. Reed desired to visit her daughter, Mrs. Nanie Carpenter, 4347 Vincennes Ave., Saturday and asked her husband to drive her there in his truck. Reed was a huckster. He objected.

### Starts Quarrel

"This is my Sunday," he said, "and I don't think it's rght." He called Shaw from his room and asked his opinion. Shaw refused to interfere. In the meantime Mrs. Reed asked Shaw to accommodate her, and he agreed. Reed became enraged and used vile language with reference to Shaw. The latter seized a revolver and began firing at Reed. Two bullets found their mark, three others went wild. Shaw, according to his wife, then threw the gun in the bathroom. The police have both weapons.

Shaw had been a roomer in the Reed home three months and worked as a helper on the huckster wagon. At the inquest held Monday at Omar McGee's morgue, 3006 Cottage Grove Ave., where Reed's body was taken a coroner's jury recommended that the police apprehend Shaw and hold him for murder. All parties involved are members of our Race.

And the Chicago Tribune is caught red-handed again manufacturing race-hatred. Wonder will they "Eat Pardon?"

## WILD ANIMALS IN CRIME.

Another young woman, riding with a young man, was dragged from her escort and raped by brutes, who took the automobile at the point of pistols. She did not die, as did the unfortunate girl whose case had just aroused the public. Two youths in robbing a store threw red pepper in the eyes of a clerk, who may lose his sight. In the murders and atrocities of crime there is a ferocity which questions whether we are developing a civilization or lapsing back into barbarism.

The inhuman element in crime as it is revealed day by day indicates not an element which is determined to get money by force and stealth, but an animalism which tortures as it destroys. Society probably always will have criminals who will attack property and some who will take life, but when it begins to breed brutes lacking in any human qualities it had better examine what is going on within it and to what extent it promotes this degradation into ferocious animalism by its negligence in enforcing its laws against crime, by its tolerance of political influence in its law enforcing agencies, and its submission to a destructive sentimentalism when cold and intelligent justice is needed.

Chicago Daily Tribune 11-29-24

# CHICAGO BLACK BELT ALSO ITS HOMICIDE BELT

## 112 Killings There in Ten Months.

Chicago's black belt is the city's homicide belt. In 112 of the 329 homicides committed during the ten months ending Oct. 31, the victims were colored persons, and 104 were killed in Cottage Grove, Stanton avenue, and Wabash avenue police districts.

Second only to the black belt are the so-called black hand districts of the near north and west sides, with fifty-one violent deaths recorded. According to a tabulation completed by Chief of Police Collins yesterday, twenty-two murders, homicides and other killings occurred in the Maxwell street district, nineteen in the Des Plaines street district, and ten in the East Chicago avenue district.

### Two Districts Have Clear Record.

Two police districts—Gresham on the far south side, and Rogers Park on the far north side—did not report a homicide during the entire period. In other districts, the number of killings ranged from one in the Grand Crossing area to fifty in the Stanton avenue district.

Domestic troubles and love triangles are listed in the cause of fifty-five murders during the ten months. Thirty of the fifty-five victims were colored persons. Sixty-seven homicides are classed in Chief Collins' tabulation as justifiable, including twenty-two cases of persons shot while resisting or fleeing from policemen. Eight city policemen, one federal deputy marshal, and a private detective were killed while seeking to make arrests.

Eighteen persons, according to the tabulation, were killed by robbers or burglars, while twelve of the homicides are charged to blackmail, extortion or Black Hand plots, three to the recent Chinese tong war, six to labor troubles, five to gangland feuds.

Revenge for real or fancied wrongs is ascribed as the cause of thirty-three murders, and the motives for thirty-seven others are as yet unknown, Chief Collins reports. A total of fifty-one homicides are classed as manslaughters in the tabulation.

### State Policeman Slain.

A member of the state constabulary, attempting to make an arrest, killed one man, a thug was accidentally killed by his accomplice in a robbery, a citizen was murdered as he sought to aid a policeman, the report shows. Three infanticides and murders by abortion are indicated. Fifteen deaths by shooting were found to be accidental.

"Murders committed in the heat of passion—those which no police department could hope to prevent—lead the list," declared Chief Collins, commenting on the nearly one a day murder record. "The tabulation indicates fifty-five murders as the result of some domestic disturbance.

### Can't Prevent This Killing.

"A man kills his paramour or she kills him in a fit of anger or jealousy, a husband kills his wife because she does not prepare his meals as he wishes them, and in one case, a wife shot her husband down because he tracked muddy boots over a newly scrubbed floor.

"It is that sort of killing that cannot be foretold or prevented unless the sale and manufacture of guns is restricted. For the rest of the report, it is apparent, that our efforts to curb gangsters and thugs are reflected in the reduced number of homicides chargeable to robbery, burglary, blackmail plots, and tong, labor and gang wars."

Crime-1924

Kentucky.

# Colored Man Sentenced To Death For Burglary

## First Time In History Of State Man's Life To Be Taken Who Took No Life Efforts Will Be Made To Have Governor Commute Sentence

Frankfort, Ky.—The nrst persons to feel the effect of Kentucky's new stringent laws were Colored persons. The habitual criminal act which gave a court the power to send a man to the penitentiary for life if it decided he was an habitual criminal found its nrst victim in a Colored man who had an uncontrollable desire for chickens. He is in the "pen" now for life because he had been arrested a number of times. Now comes a test of the law that says Burglary is punishable with death. It reads:

**No. 1159 Punishment for Burglary or Robbery ,or for Having Burglarious Tools.**

Every person guilty of Burglary shall be punished with death, or confinement in the penitentiary for life, in the discretion of the jury. This act shall not affect the statute or law of the State denouncing any penalty for robbery not accompanied by an act of burglary. Every person guilty of robbery shall be confined in the penitentiary not less than two nor more than ten years.

Alex Gibson, Colored, of Lexington, Ky., was convicted on the charge of Burglary and the Fayette County Court gave him the death sentence. Thursday of last week the highest court in the State, the COURT OF APPEALS. upheld the decision of the Fayette County Court and decides this man has to die despite the fact he took no man's life nor injured any persons.

Louisville News 10-18-24 Louisville Ky.

Colored men all over the State are aroused and efforts are being made to have Gov. Fields commute the gsentence. Certain men who are known as Democrats and others independents who supported Gov Fields are getting together to appeal to the Governor. Mr. A. L Garvin as president of the N. A. A C. P. and as a supporter of Fields is taking the lead. With such well known Democrats as W. W. Wilson, Alex Morris, Prof. G. P. Russell, P. W. Wilson and Attorney R. L. Childs, it is thought the Governor's heart may be touche dand he will not let a man go to his death who has taken no life.

All over the country a feeling prevails that it is wrong for the State to take the life of a confessed and convicted murderer. Yet Kentuckyy is preparing to take the life of a man who has committed no murder, has taken no life, has injured no man, woman or child. That a burglar is a possible murdered may be true. But a POSSIBLE murderer is ino ta POSITIVE murderer by a long shot.

Shall Alex Gibson die in the electric chair under the law quoted above? If Illinois couldn't see her way to kill Loeb and Leopold for nurder, can Kentucky take this man's life for burglary?

Crime—1924

Louisiana.

# NEGRO ESCAPES MURDER CHARGE, ADMITS LARCENY

## Engineer Confers With State Highway Officials on Aid Projects.

Baton Rouge, La., Feb. 25.—The regular jury term of court for East Baton Rouge parish was called this morning, but, only one case having been assigned for trial for this day an[illegible] accused pleading guilty on one of the charges, the jury was dismissed till Tuesday morning. The man to be tried was Will Price, negro, who was charged with burglary and larceny to the amount of $100. The charge of larceny was changed to $25, the value of a suit of clothes he acknowledged taking, and the plea of guilty made.

It was thought by the authorities at the time Price was arrested several months ago that he was the negro who killed Joe Merino, a Baton Rouge policeman last year, and a chain of circumstantial evidence was forged, but it was not sufficient to make a case, it is said.

## FIRE AVENGES MURDER.

**Sheriff Day's Death Followed by Burning of 10 Negro Houses.**

BATON ROUGE, La., March 31.—Ten buildings, including a church, in the negro quarter of Dixie, a settlement on the outskirts of Baton Rouge, were burned by unidentified men last night in revenge for the murder Saturday night of Sheriff Robert Day, killed during a raid on a negro gambling game. Approximately 10,000 persons attended the funeral of the sheriff yesterday, who was buried by St. James Masonic Lodge, of which he was a member, with Gov.-Elect Henry L. Fuqua, chaplain of the lodge, in charge of the service at the grave.

# SLAYER OF WHITE MAN TO DIE AUG. 1

## Condemned Negro Recovers from Injuries Caused in Suicide Attempt.

Lake Charles, La., June 26.—The date of execution of Alto Hamilton, young negro who killed Darville Borel, aged white man here last September, has been set by Governor Fuqua for August 1. Hamilton killed Borel, in the aged farmer's cotton patch east of this city September 14. The condemned negro attempted to kill himself last April when he slashed his throat with a razor he stole froN a man who had gone into the jail to shave another prisoner. He recovered from the self inflicted injuries.

# NEGRO MOB ATTACKS OFFICER; ONE DEAD

## Race Clash Occurs When Negroes Are Arrested.

NEW ORLEANS, June 17.—One negro is dead, one white man seriously wounded and several negroes badly hurt as a result of a wholesale shooting scrape at Leesville, La., late yesterday when blacks attempted to liberate two negro prisoners, according to word received here today from Leesville.

Manager Hall of the Lutcher & Moore Turpentine Company's camp, is in a hospital at DeRidder badly wounded. One negro probably is fatally wounded, another has part of his shoulder shot away and several others are hurt.

Peace officers, fearing an outbreak on the slightest provocation, are patrolling the parish while cool-headed citizens are bending every effort to quiet that part of the populace whose feelings are at high tension.

The trouble arose when Valney Mitchell, of the state highway department, went to the camp, 20 miles southeast of here, yesterday, and arrested two negroes for driving a car without a license. Hall volunteered to drive the prisoners to Leesville and starter out with one negro on the front seat with himself, while Mitchell and the other prisoner occupied the rear seat of the car.

They had proceeded only a short distance from the camp when the car was halted by a mob of negroes, whose spokesman demanded the release of the prisoners. Hall got out of the car, and as he did so a negro in the crowd drew a pistol and fired at him twice, neither bullet taking effect. Hall drew his own pistol and killed his assailant almost instantly. Another member of the mob then fired and the bullet struck Hall in the back. Mitchell opened fire and the mob slowly withdrew, firing in return. A bullet pierced Mitchell's hat and the negro who fired the shot was next to fall, probably fatally wounded. Mitchell loaded his prisoners and the wounded into the car after the mob had disappeared and speeded to DeRidder.

Sheriff Turner and deputies went to the scene immediately and reported last night virtually every man in the community had armed himself. He was confident, however, there would be no further trouble, but as a precaution deputies are on patrol duty throughout the parish today.

**On affidavit of P. F. Rial, father of P. O. Rial, who with Miss Bessie Carl, 18 years old, of Houston, was murdered in a woods near here last September, that he does not believe in the guilt of Verlie Adams, young negro convicted of the crime, application for a new trial was made in district court today. Adams confessed to committing the crime with another negro following his arrest, but repudiated the confession as a witness in his own behalf at the trial.**

**"I have every reason to doubt the truth of the defendant's confession to the murder of my son and Miss Carl," Mr. Rial's statement says.**

NEW ORLEANS LA. ITEM
MAY 26, 1924

## Offences Against Negroes

ENTIRELY too little attention is paid by the people of New Orleans and Louisiana as a whole to crimes among the negro population of the city where these crimes are committed by one negro against another.

As a result there has grown up a condition where it is almost impossible to get a jury to convict properly a negro for a crime against another negro. There is entirely too much disposition on the part of the juries which consist of white citizens to take the view that crimes of violence committed by negroes against other negroes are not as important as crimes committed by negroes against whites. Likewise we think that there is a disposition among juries to be lax in the punishment of crimes committed by white people against negroes.

THIS condition is naturally resented by the most substantial and respectable part of the negro population itself. These peaceful and law-abiding negroes want punishment meted out to members of their race who commit violence against them. While individuals connected with criminals are always seeking leniency and mercy, the sounder-thinking element among the negroes are seriously resentful of the idea that negro criminals can shoot or cut up other negroes—be taken to jail, and walk out within a few hours on bail, and through the activities of attorneys, and the technicalities of the law escape punishment. Here, as everywhere, there is a demand for the tightening up of the laws, for the more vigorous prosecution of people who offend against the law, and the proper punishment of those who are found guilty.

GOOD negro citizens confront a serious condition in their effort to inculcate a spirit of obedience to law among hot-tempered and violent elements of their own race. They realize that they have a difficult problem to contend with here as everywhere else.

Aside from crimes of violence, two major crimes are committed by negroes, and respectable negroes want the authorities to deal fairly but very firmly with members of their race not only when they commit crimes against white people, but when they commit crimes against colored people.

It is our own view that the Bar Association of various cities and sections should go carefully over the various phases of criminal law practiced in the South. Every person white or black is entitled to proper legal defense, and to a day in court, but the practices of considerable elements of criminal lawyers should be carefully investigated, overhauled, and revised by sound lawyers.

### Negro Youth Hanged.

Lake Charles, La., August 1.—Alto Hamilton, negro youth, was hanged here this afternoon for the murder of Darville Borel, white farmer, near Lake Charles last September. The trap was spring at 2:17 o'clock. The negro went to his death calmly and without a quiver of the hand.

## NEGROES MURDERING NEGROES

UNSCRUPULOUS KILLING OF NEGROES BY NEGROES AWAKENS WHITE PUBLIC SENTIMENT OF NEW ORLEANS—ALLEGED ACTION OF COURTS ALLOWING MURDERS TO ESCAPE JUST PUNISHMENT SEVERELY CRITICISED BY WHITE PRESS—PSYCHOLOGICAL MOMENT HAS COME FOR NEGRO LEADERS TO CO-OPERATE WITH BETTER ELEMENT OF WHITE PEOPLE IN BRINGING ABOUT THE APPREHENSION AND RIGID PUNISHMENT OF NEGRO MEN AND WOMEN WHO MURDER EACH OTHER SIMPLY BECAUSE THEY HAVE THE IMPULSE TO DO SO—FEELING REASONABLY SURE OF ESCAPING THE GALLOWS—OF GETTING OUT THRU LIGHT FINES OR OF BEING FREED ALTOGETHER.

According to Chief Molony, 59 Negroes were murdered by Negroes in New Orleans during 192[illegible] —which was more than total number of Negroes killed by lynchings and mob-violence thruout the entire South during that year—according to the records compiled by Tuskegee Institute.

It is time to call a halt to this mania among colored people to kill each other.

What law-abiding, self-respecting Negro's life is safe in such an atmosphere wherein race men and women murder one another upon the slightest pretext or simply because it comes to their minds to do so?

The States, The Item and The Times-Picayune [illegible] bold criticising the shameless [illegible] which [illegible] roes are murdering each [illegible] soring [illegible] e Courts for allowing them to escape the full punishment of the law.

This is the second time the National Negro Voice, a modest, but sincere worker for the best interest of the colored people, has called the attention of the substantial colored citizenry of New Orleans to this deplorable frequent murdering of Negroes by Negroes in almost cold blood or for the most frivolous cause. Is not this killing of Negroes by Negroes growing into alarming proportions when the three white daily papers are coming out in open condemnation of it?

"An Eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth"

has come down to us from the dim past ages as the only effectual preventitive of the careless taking or human lives, and as far as men can judge, it seems but fair and just that in all cases, where one human being deliberately takes another's life for no cause, other than that the impulse came to him or her to do so, such a murderer's life should also be taken, for what man or woman should have the right to cut off another's life, without justifiable cause, and then be allowed to live and enjoy life and freedom as though he or she had done no more than drown a blind cat or puppy?

It may seem hard to relatives and friends of those who commit murder without sufficient cause, to say that every cold blooded murderer, man or woman should be hanged or electrocuted at the earliest possible moment after so taking another's life, yet it seems to be the only sure way to prevent such unjustifiable murders and protect the lives of a law-abiding, Christian citizenry.

"Greater love hath no man than this that a man lay down his life for a friend." Greater hate hath no man than this that he snuff out the life of a human being without sufficient cause.

There are millions of men and women who do not accept the Christian faith, and whose poor conception of right and wrong robs them of a guiding conscience. These men and women regard neither God nor man, do not believe that they will have to answer to any one for their sins and consequently are willing to take human life as easily as going to an afternoon matinee. This class of people are found everywhere regardless of color, and the only check on them seems to be to take their lives whenever they kill a human being without cause.

It may be said with a fair degree of truth that those Negroes who kill each other, for no justifiable cause, are they who have drifted away from early religious teachings of their Christian mothers and fathers and are steeped down in loose morals and empty pleasures to such an extent that they never give the Bible a thought, have forgotten how to pray, abhor the idea of attending church, care naught for culture, refinement and education, mock at virture in women, see no good in anything or anybody, always bending toward that which is evil, until with them killing becomes a pass time, especially when possessed of the idea that the courts will deal leniently with them.

Crime — 1924. Mississippi.

# FOUR INNOCENT MEN IN PRISON FACE FREEDOM

## Guilty Man Is Captured and Confesses to Crimes for Which Others Paid

Clarksdale, Miss., Jan. 4.—Freedom now faces four innocent men who are serving long sentences in the penitentiary of Mississippi for a crime committed by another, according to the confession of Edward Lloyd Robinson, 28, the ax burglar, who convinced the police of Memphis, Tenn., that he alone attacked and beat to death Miss Arlie Forbes, a wealthy white woman, while she was asleep on the night of Aug. 18.

Following the discovery of the murdered woman, authorities of the Mississippi town trailed with bloodhounds Sherman Miller, 26; Samuel Strong, 35; Richard Wiggins, 40, and Eddie Hall, 23. The men were arrested on suspicion because of this circumstantial evidence and narrowly escaped being lynched. They were put through severe third degree punishment. This, together with the fear of the lynchers' rope, forced a false confession from them. The first three were given 25 years in the penitentiary, and Hall 15, following a very hurried trial.

### Innocent Man Hanged

It is now believed that another innocent man was hanged here eight years ago for the murder of A. H Cage, a banker, who was shot to death in his home by a burglar. Frank Anderson of Louisiana was the man who paid the penalty for Cage's death.

Before he was hung the authorities were informed through a number of anonymous letters that they were going to hang an innocent man. These and similar letters written in the case of the other four men, are believed to have been written by Robinson, according to the opinion of handwriting experts. Robinson is said to have acknowledged writing the letters concerning the innocence of the four men now in the penitentiary and declaring himself alone to be the guilty party. These letters were received by a Coahoma county sheriff.

A careful check has been made of Robinson's confession to the Memphis police, and the mass of evidence removes all doubt as to his guilt and as to the innocence of the four men for whom steps are now being taken to free. Efforts also will be made by the Coahoma county authorities to have Robinson returned to Clarksdale for trial.

His criminal record in Memphis consists of 31 burglaries, which netted him in loot approximately $40,000, and of assaulting with an ax Mr. and Mrs. Jacob I. Maienthal, wealthy Jews, June 18. His ax attacks are similar to the many ax murders and assaults recently perpetrated in Birmingham, Ala., and detectives from that city are now in Memphis comparing the similarities.

Robinson was captured by Detective Sergeant Pat Horan in Memphis, after pawning a watch. He confessed to committing ten robberies, the police say, and these have been checked up.

# FOUR NEGROES ARE SENTENCED TO BE HANGED

## Convicted of Murdering Woman in Store Near Jackson.

Jackson, Miss., Feb. 17.—"Guilty as charged," was the verdict of the jury trying the case of the four negroes—Herman Williams, Isom Hagan, Lonnie Hunter and Oscar Johnson—charged with the murder of Mrs. Nellie Mardiss, aged storekeeper. The trial was held at Raymond, in this county, before Judge Potter, and the verdict was returned late Saturday afternoon. Judge Potter immediately sentenced the negroes to be hanged March 21. Notice of appeal was filed.

Five negroes were implicated in the crime, which occurred on the night of February 6, but one of them, Phillip O'Berry, 17 years old, turned state's evidence, and it was mostly on the story told by him that the others were convicted. O'Berry accepted a life sentence and will be taken to the state prison Monday.

The convictions made six negroes that have been convicted and given the death sentence this week in the court at Raymond, the other two being Eddie Lee and Leslie Hurd, convicted of the murder of Marshal Ollie Lancaster of Bolton the night after Christmas. All were sentenced to be hanged on the same day, but all have taken appeals.

Mrs. Mardiss conducted a little store at Smith's Station, thirty miles west of here. On the night of February 6 a negro went to the store and found no one there. Reporting the matter at the home of Mrs. Mardiss' sister, the two went back to the store and found the aged woman stabbed and backed with a butcher knife. Bloodhounds were placed on the trail and tracked two of the negroes to their homes, where they were found in bed, fully dressed. An all-night search was made and the next day two other negroes were arrested. Bloody handprints were found in the store and a search began for a negro with a cut hand. Late in the day the father of O'Berry surrendered him to the sheriff's posse, when on returning home he was found to have the tell-tale cut. The boy confessed to Sheriff Wells, giving all details of the murder and robbery.

### The Course of the Law.

Six negroes received death penalties in the courts of Mississippi last week. Each had the benefit of legal counsel and was given a fair trial. The testimony heard was convincing. There was no room in the minds of the jurors for a reasonable doubt as to guilt.

This orderly procedure was a triumph for the law administered through duly constituted authority. The ends of justice will be much better served than if an enraged mob had itself violated the law and executed the accused before the evidence had been heard and weighed. Trial by jury, sentence by court and execution under the law do much more to curb the criminal tendencies of men than an illegal execution by those who have allowed passion to sway reason.

There has been a gratifying decrease in the number of lynchings within the last few years. One of the reasons for this decrease is that officers who have sworn to uphold the law are showing more regard for their oath of office. They are carrying out the mandates of the law instead of taking orders from the mob.

Another reason, let us hope, is that the citizen himself has come to a fuller realization of his duty to stand by the officer of the law instead of sympathizing with those who would disregard the law by attempting to administer it themselves.

The fact that many guilty men, if they have money and influence, escape punishment befitting the crime cannot be logically urged as a plea in extenuation of offenses committed by one who has neither money nor "pull."

To the contrary, the conviction and punishment of the guilty plebeian is an appeal to the reason of justice for conviction and punishment of the guilty plutocrat.

Murder is murder and theft is theft, it matters not who is the murderer or the thief, whether he be rich or poor, high or low. In the eyes of the law there should be neither financial nor social standing.

Punishment of criminals is the surest preventive of crime.

When the people of a commonwealth bring themselves into conformity with law and lend their efforts to the full and impartial enforcement of all laws, they take the all-important step toward securing for themselves the benefits which civilized government seeks to bestow.

# TWO WHITE MEN DIE AT MERIDIAN TODAY

## Atkinson and Greer Bid Wives and Children Good-Bye.

MERIDIAN, Miss., July 24.—With the double hanging tomorrow between 2 and 4 o'clock of Frank Atkinson and Clyde Greer, for the murder of R. H. Bryant, the first legal executions of white men in the history of this county will take place. On the eve of the executions both men still stick to their statements, Greer that if he killed Bryant he has no recollection of it, claiming to have been drunk at the time, while Atkinson claims that he never fired a shot, remaining in Greer's automobile when Greer and Bryant went into the woods where the body was later found.

Late this afternoon Greer said that he desired to make a statement to his lawyer, but when the latter arrived at the jail and after a few moments conversation it was announced that he had changed his mind and would make no statement. Atkinson tonight stated that there was one thing that he had not told in connection with the killing that he would tell before he was put to death. Atkinson ate a hearty supper consisting of vegetables, while Greer contented himself with a glass of milk and a slice of apple pie.

During the afternoon religious services were held in the jail for the benefit of the condemned men by Layman League Team No. Six, led by the team's captain, Bolivar Hyde, music being furnished by the team orchestra.

Atkinson, who today for the first time made any expression of religious faith asked that the Rev. Blanding Vaughn, pastor of the South Side Baptist Church, be sent for. Tomorrow morning he will be administered the ordinance of baptism by the pastor, the immersion taking place in a jail bathtub.

The wives of both condemned men and their children spent a greater part of the afternoon in the prison. Atkinson in bidding his children good-bye tonight told them to be good children, to go to Sunday school and to remember to never touch whisky, as drink had been his ruin and cause of his death, but told them that they could always look any individual in the eye and say that their father had never taken human life.

# OFFICERS SHOT DOWN BY DESPERATE NEGRO

## Two Raymond Officials in Critical Condition.

## NEGRO PLACED IN JAIL

**Constable Ford and Marshal Peterson Are Victims When Negro Runs Amuck at Picnic Near Raymond.**

RAYMOND, Miss., July 7.—Constable H. D. Ford and City Marshal A. E. Peterson were shot and seriously wounded at a picnic near here by Younger Smith, alias Jackson, a negro. Ford is in a critical condition and is not expected to live. Marshal Peterson was rushed to a Jackson hospital and has a chance for recovery.

This community is much aroused over the shooting. A Fourth of July picnic was continued over through Saturday, and the officers got a tip that Jackson was peddling liquor and doing a land office business on the picnic grounds. They went out to the place about 9 o'clock Saturday night and just about the time they stopped their car the negro, Jackson, opened fire on them from behind and both fell. Constable Ford was shot in the back in two places. One bullet came out in the front part of the neck and the other in front part of his shoulder. Peterson was shot through the body.

After the shooting the negro Jackson made his escape and fled towards Jackson. Sheriff Wells and his deputies had every road blocked and 11 o'clock Saturday night the fleeing negro ran into a corps of deputy sheriffs on Robinson Street road and was arrested. When taken, he was armed with a .45 calibre S. & W. pistol, with two empty shells and four loaded shells in the gun. The negro voluntarily confessed to the shooting and offered no justification. The bullets taken from the pistol are steel jacketed, and correspond exactly with the bullet cut from the side of Marshall Peterson.

The wounded men are unable to give an account of the shooting, and little is known of how it happened, except the information given by Jackson in his confession. Several negroes who were near the shooting stated that the crowd was gathered near the ice cream stand, and that Jackson ran through the crowd in an excited manner, stating "that them ——— think I am a cheap nigger, but I will show them," and immediately after he disappeared from the light the shooting began.

These negroes stated that they did not even know that the officers were at the picnic grounds. Jackson is being held in the county jail at Jackson awaiting the result of the wounds inflicted upon the officers. If the officers, or either, should die, he will be given a preliminary hearing at Raymond on a charge of murder. If both recover, he will have a hearing on a charge of assault and battery with intent to kill and murder. During the past year this section of Hinds County has recorded the murder of two white people by negroes, and the conviction of the murderers. Four negroes are now awaiting appeals from death sentences for the murder of Mrs. Mardis, at Smith Station, and two are awaiting appeals from death sentences for the murder of Ollie Lancaster, Marshal of Bolton.

# PLANTER CHIDES JUDGE AND OFFERS AID IN LYNCHING

## Says $100 Fine Is Only One Day's Profit of Bootlegger.

Clarksdale, Miss., July 29—Walter Clark, planter, in addressing the federal court today charged that Coahoma county was in a state of anarchy at times.

Clark told Judge Holmes that he was in favor of taking the law in his own hands. He named a bootlegger and offered to go out and help lynch him. Clark, who was converted recently in a revival, took the judge to task over imposing only $100 fines on some of the first offenders for moonshining and said that amount was only one day's profit.

One of Clark's negro tenants was brought before the judge after being found guilty of manufacturing liquor.

"Six months each on two counts," said Judge Holmes.

The judge said he had heard Mr. Clark with interest but disagreed that lawlessness could enforce law.

"Abolishing bootlegging is not a ninety-day campaign," said Judge Holmes, "but can be accomplished only by steady work." He said that sentiment in Mississippi was growing for law enforcement.

Clark's negro tenants must serve the twelve months in the state penitentiary.

## NIGHT OPERATOR SHOT.

### Bloodhounds Trail Negro To His Home At Swan Lake.

SUMNER, Miss., Aug. 7.—J. W. Bennett, night operator for the Y. & M. V. Railroad Company at Swan Lake, Miss., was shot early this morning by an unidentified person after he had returned to his office from dispatching a freight train that left Swan Lake about 1 o'clock. He was seated at his desk when the shot that riddled his body came through the north window on his right. Mr. Bennett summoned help but no trace of the person firing the shot could be found, the only evidence being the wads from the shotgun which showed No. 6 shot were used in the attempted murder. Bob Gandy, his bloodhounds from Crystal Springs were telephoned for and arrived this afternoon. They were put on the trail and within a few minutes had followed the tracks to a negro house and rushed into the bed used by a negro named Anthony Chandler, who was taken into custody by Deputy Sheriff C. E. Coldridge and Special Agents Bruce Tucker of Clarksdale and Don Walton of Greenwood, who assisted in the chase.

The negro was brought to Sumner and lodged in the county jail. He denies having anything to do with the assault or knowing anything about it. Mr. Bennett is not seriously wounded unless complications arise from the shot that riddled his body. Anthony Chandler is employed by the Y. & M. V. at the pump house and has been at Swan Lake for quite a while.

## RETURNED TO MISSISSIPPI.

### Man Wanted in Negro's Death Located in Army Hospital.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 1.—Thomas John Smith, alias Buck Evans, today was en route from Washington to Monticello, Miss., in custody of Sheriff James M. Brewer of the Mississippi city, after his arrest at Walter Reed Hospital here for alleged complicity in a killing at Monticello a year ago. Smith, a soldier, told local police he had no part in the killing, details of which were not learned here, but was said to have admitted he witnessed it.

MONTICELLO, Miss., Aug. 1.—Thomas John Smith, now en route to Monticello in the custody of Sheriff J. M. Brewer, is known in Lawrence County by the name of Buck Arnold, and is wanted on the charge of murder in connection with the slaying of Monroe Catledge, negro boy, about three years ago.

Will Trice, arrested with Arnold, is now serving a life term in the Mississippi state penitentiary following his conviction. Arnold was released on bond pending his trial, but left this section about a year ago.

Local officers learned of his whereabouts when he wrote local people saying that he was in the United States army, and was confined to the Walter Reed Hospital in Washington.

Crime—1924.

Missouri.

# INJECTING "TRUTH SERUM"

Dr. Robert E. House of Ferris, Texas, is shown injecting scopolamin into the arm of George Hudson, a prisoner in the St. Louis, Mo., jail, to bring about a confession. The serum only made Hudson ill and was a rank failure as a truth producer. It was used in Birmingham, Ala., to convict several people of ax murders. In several cities in the North it has been laughed out of court and is regarded by the medical profession as "bunk."

# TRUTH SERUM IS ALL BUNK, TRIAL SHOWS

## Texas Doctor Flunks in Experiment

St. Louis, Mo., June 20.—Scopolamin, the much discussed truth serum, the use of which its discoverer, Dr. Robert E. House of Ferris, Tex., claims will prove whether or not the person subjected to it is telling the truth, was given its initial trial in St. Louis last Thursday when a newspaper reporter and three prisoners submitted themselves as subjects for the experiment at the city jail. All were inoculated with the serum and, while under its influence were interrogated on various subjects.

From the replies Dr. House, who was in charge of the experiment, later declared the experiment was not very successful due to the great number of people assembled around the subjects and the nervous condition of the patients. Approximately 50 persons, including lawyers and prominent physicians and newspaper reporters, witnessed the experiment.

Although Circuit Attorney Howard Sidener had several questions asked he declared the outcome of the experiment would have no legal effect upon the cases of the prisoners.

### Prisoner Inoculated

George Hudson, charged with committing a statutory offense, and Bernay Freeman, an alleged pickpocket, were among those who underwent the experiment.

Each of the subjects was first given 1-130th grain of scopolamin, injected hypodermically in the arm. This was repeated in 15 minutes. Twenty minutes later 1-40 grain of apo-morphine was administered to prevent nausea.

The progress of the experiment was then impeded for a few moments until the center of hearing could function. Dr. House explained that the difficulty lies in making the questions asked understood and telling by the answer when the question is understood, because, he said, "the stimulus may go to the wrong part of the brain." He compared the whole system to the telephone system.

The actual test began by placing objects before the patients, such as knives, pencils and pens, and when their memories were so paralyzed from the drug that they were unable to discern what the various objects were they were then given chloroform to insure against a deceptive imitation. If they could then identify the objects before them more injections of scopolamin were given.

After the questioning Dr. House said that George Hudson, one of the Colored men, "has proven himself innocent of the charge to my satisfaction, because of his irrational answers and never once tangling himself therein."

Chicago Tribune 6-21-24

Crime – 1924

New Jersey.

TRENTON N. J. TIMES
AUGUST 15, 1924

## NEGROES TO HELP.

Trenton Negroes do well to offer hearty co-operation in the city's effort to prevent disorder and lawlessness, especially among newly arrived immigrants of the race. They can do much to put their people in the right light and win from the whites the courtesy and consideration to which decency is ever entitled. They can win best by complete co-operation, rather than by deploring or criticizing existing conditions.

Serious consideration may well be given by police courts and juries to the Negroes' charge that bootleg liquor and the illegal carrying of firearms have much to do with the creation of trouble. Failure to indict bootleggers and other offenders encourages crime.

As the Times has so often pointed out, grand and petit jurors are largely to blame for recent outlawry. Justice must be dispensed without fear or favor if respect for law is to prevail.

## FARM MYSTERY EXPLAINED.

### Negro Confesses Putting on Sheet and Shooting at Employer.

*Special to The New York Times.*

PITMAN, N. J., Aug. 24.—The white-sheet shooting mystery which has aroused farmers of Salem County was cleared up today when authorities said that Harry Wood, a young negro farm hand, had confessed that he had covered his head with a sheet and shot twice into the bedroom where his employer, William H. Foggs, a prominent farmer, and his wife were sleeping in their farmhouse, two miles from this city. One bullet struck a pillow between the heads of the pair.

The negro reported for work the next day as usual, but was later arrested. Jail authorities said today that Wood is being held on a charge of attempted murder. They believed at first that the motive was revenge, but today the officers stated that the negro apparently intended to kill the Foggs and then rob the farmhouse.

TRENTON N. J. ADVERTISER
AUGUST 17, 1924

## UNDOUBTEDLY TO BLAME

Bad liquor mixed with irresponsible humanity is undoubtedly to blame for much of the disorder which has been prevailing in Trenton for some time past. Attorney Robert Queen and Samuel H. Henson, speaking in behalf of negro citizens who are seeking a better state of affairs, declare that this is the case and their contention is backed up by the findings of Commissioner La Barre and the Police Department.

For this ugly situation recent Grand Juries and meddling politicians are responsible. Failure to stop bootlegging leads to encouragement of numerous crimes. Indiscriminate sale of "fighting booze" is bad for any people, regardless of color, being, in addition to all else, direct violation of Federal and State laws.

Grand and petit jurors and the judges of the courts have a grave responsibility in this connection. There must be wholesale indictment and conviction of bootleggers and other evildoers, with stiff jail sentences, if society is to be protected from disorder.

## Our Rowdies Making Trouble in the North and West

The country was startled last week when the Commissioner of Police at Trenton, New Jersey, issued an order to the police to "shoot to kill," because the man who issued the order is known to be a cool headed citizen, not to be easily thrown off his stride. His wrath was directed mainly at the migrant members of the race who have settled in Trenton in large numbers, as it has many manufacturing interests and employment for new comers has been very good.

Norfolk Journal & Guide

It appears from the conclusions of the Commissioner that many of the new comers from the South have been too handy with fire arms, have indulged too freely in bootlegging and drinking, and insist upon blocking the sidewalks and corners and interfering with the privileges and immunities of others on the public highways. Because of a slack-up in employment a great many of the new-comers are out of work, and the rowdies among them have been busy making trouble for those who are not rowdies. But those who are familiar with the Trenton situation, where the rowdies are few and the good people many, think that Commissioner La Barre was too sweeping in his denunciation and too hasty in giving the order "to shoot to kill." The situation can and will be handled satisfactorily without much display of the temper of the Commissioner.

9-6-24

Not only in Trenton but in many places in the North and West there are reports of the like doings by our rowdies, many of them fresh from the South, which put the whole race in bad with the police and the public opinion of the time and place; but it does not smoother the fact that, in the Northern cities, it is the few rowdies we have and not the great majority of the race in any given place who make trouble for themselves and for the race. There is no more justice in indicting the whole race as rowdies because of the bad conduct of the few than in indicting all white persons of a community because a few of their number are rowdies and make a lot of trouble for the police, with the occasional shooting of an officer, as in Trenton. It is easy to indict an individual but difficult to indict a whole race.

The situation calls for more than defending ourselves from sweeping condemnation of the many for the rowdyism of the few; The call for more activity on the part of our ministers and professional men and uplift workers to reach by organized efforts the rowdies of the race and seek to so instruct them that they will become better and more useful citizens. Much is being done but much more is needed, and it is needed everywhere that the race is any considerable part of the total population of a given community. It is a good and necessary work and calls loudly to our public spirited men and women to volunteer for it.

Crime—1924.

North Carolina.

### THE NEGRO AND THE AUTOMOBILE.

The recklessness of negroes on an auto joy ride is proverbial. It has become a caution to people using the highways on Sundays. A group of automobile drivers was a few days ago discussing the apparent uncanny immunity of negroes from death in automobile accidents. None in the group could recall having heard of a negro being killed in a highway wreck. But the "spell," if such it was, is broken. A negro went over an embankment on a road near Fayetteville, one day last week, and was instantly killed, although the usual luck attended his companion, who was not hurt. The one got a fractured head; the other a fractured thumb. The accident is significant for one thing, if for no other. It proves that it is actually possible for a negro to be killed in auto smash-up.

## *NEGROES CONDEMNED TO DEATH FOR MURDER*

Lexington, N. C., August 23.—John Leak and Kenneth Hale, negroes, were found guilty here this afternoon of first degree murder in connection with the killing of John Garwood, white taxi driver of Lexington, near here, three weeks ago. Judge Bryson immediately sentenced both negroes to death by electrocution October 9.

Garwood was killed by the men and his body thrown into the bushes alongside the road after he had been hired to take them into the country. The negroes, when captured, confessed complicity in the deed, but each accused the other of striking the blows which caused death.

## ONE NEGRO HELD IN TAXI MURDER

### Police Believe Prisoner Was To Have Been Spy for Real Killer of Auto Driver.

Greensboro, N. C., August 8.—Ernest Dinkins, negro, arrested here today, is being held in the city jail as a material witness in connection with the killing of Charlie Garwood, taxi driver, in his machine near Lexington Thursday night. The blood-stained death car was discovered parked here on a street near the business district at 2 o'clock this morning by patrolmen.

Dinkins, when arrested, had on his person a strip of paper bearing the license number. In a statement to the police it is claimed Dinkins said the number was given to him shortly after midnight this morning by John Leak, another negro. Leak, it is claimed, gave Dinkins the number, saying he had been in difficulty about a car bearing a corresponding number. Leak, it is said, left here on a southbound train, telling Dinkins he would write soon giving an address. He then requested Dinkins, it is said, to answer on receipt of the address stating what developed concerning the car.

It is reported here tonight that Leak has been arrested in Charlotte.

Will McClode, negro, arrested here as a suspect this morning, was released after he had been closely questioned.

## NOT A CRIME OF CLASS OR RACE

Recently we had occasion to comment on an automobile accident in which a little girl lost her sight. The driver of the car that caused the accident was a negro. In the article we referred to the fact that the negro was driving "as negroes will." That expression referred to the proverbial propensity of negro drivers to drive fast especially when they get a high powered car. It is their nature for they are more irresponsible than white people as a rule.

However, from that statement we wish no one to get the impression that we are saying that the negroes do all the reckless driving that is done or even half of it. Reckless driving is the manifestation of a weakness in human nature and is not confined to class or color.

Indeed, it is far more to be condemned to see a white man driving in a reckless manner than a negro. There are plenty of violations of the law on both sides and we have no intention of splitting hairs as to responsibility or offending our negro citizens by extravagant statements.

Reckless driving is a monster that sinks its fangs into high and low alike. It takes its toll from among the negroes and the whites without regard for color. The accidents happen and humanity is the loser.

There is some physical exhilaration in speed that effects all people alike. They get a thrill. In order to enjoy that sensation they indulge in recklessness that often leads to catastrophe. They take chances with death for the sake of the thrill or from a lack of responsibility.

The reckless driver, and that includes the intoxicated driver, offers a menace to the children in the streets and to the passengers in the cars. He brings death near to the motorists who travel our beautiful highways.

Those men or women, white or black, who take chances with the lives of others because of carelessness or irresponsibility are just as much criminals as men who go up the street shooting pistols. Human life is something precious but men have little regard for it when they get in automobiles and feel the throb of the engine under their feet and the sting of the wind in their faces. The speed demon calls and usually the innocent pay.

## *Dr. Dudley Asserts Negroes Not Doing All Wild Driving*

Editor Record:

Your recent editorial on "What is Unavoidable" surely deeply impressed your readers. All must sympathize with the little girl who in an auto accident lost her sight and is doomed, for the remainder of her life, to a period of darkness and gloom. It is a terrible loss under any circumstances; more terrible still when it is considered that the innocent little girl is made to suffer because of the probable recklessness of others. From your editorial I believe the accident was avoidable. Everybody knows that a car is liable to skid on a wet, hard surfaced road. Every cautious driver will avoid taking chances of skidding when approaching a corner, a curve, or another car, by reducing speed and the consequent momentum, without which, on a hard surface road, skidding is impossible.

Your editorial is so impressive and timely that I have read it to my chauffeur and propose to have it conspicuously posted in the A. and T. garage.

But I trust that you will pardon me, in suggesting that, in my opinion you were unwittingly most probably unkind and unfair to my people. You referred to the skidding car that caused the terrible accident as being driven "as negroes drive." No person can deny the statement that there is entirely too much trouble and suffering caused by drunken careless and reckless negro drivers. We keenly regret this fact. But if you will scan the column of the press of tomorrow you will most probably find that a majority of the accidents and deaths are not caused by negro drivers. Judge Collins or any other judge of similar duties will doubtless verify the statement that reckless driving is not peculiar to negro chauffeurs.

Your reference seems to do injustice to many really careful negro chauffeurs who observe the utmost care and caution in handling a car. On the road to Sea Breeze, where I am spending a few days, a white child was injured by a negro chauffeur. The negro was arrested. The father, I understand, secured the release of the negro and requested no prosecution. The father saw the accident and stated that the negro was not culpable.

Your editorial will do much good. The public needs such editorials, certainly my people do, but may I not ask that in rendering such valuable service to the public that you kindly refrain from impressing the public that reckless driving is peculiar to the negro. If you will grant us this favor, I feel the public will be safer and your negro readers and friends will feel better.

Very Respectfully,
Jas. B. Dudley.

Sea Breeze, N. C.
August 25, 1924.

Communicated

The killing of an innocent negro woman on the highway north of Raleigh last Saturday night was a bad affair.

Theer is no disposition to prejudice the trial of anyone who may be charged in the courts with the offense, but somebody has committed a crime of so outrageous a character that it should be fully investigated and punishment meted out to the offender, whoever he may be.

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The homicide was the result of a raid made by officers of the law on a craps game being played by negroes on a farm in the county.

On the return to town with their prisoners some one of the arresting officers, it is said, fired into a passing automobile in which were several negroes, who were in no wise connected with the craps game, and a shot struck a woman who was one of the occupants of the car, resulting in her death. Such wanton acts as these set men to thinking and wondering if we are really living under a reign of law and order or in an archaic and irresponsible time when the strong prey upon the weak and men clothed with a little brief authority use it to trample upon the rights and toy with the lives of their fellow creatures. There is no question of race involved here. No class prejudice can possibly enter. It is not an issue between the white man and the black man.

It's an issue between right and wrong, one between the majesty of the law and its oppressive and bloody counterfeit. It is not local, but one in which the whole country, and particularly the south, has a deep and vital concern.

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There are raids and raids. Some of them are in the interest of society, conceived and carried out in good faith, and these are to be commended. There are others made in the interest solely of fees, and these are to be absolutely condemned. Shooting craps by negroes is indeed trivial compared to periodical prostitutions of power by officers in the name of the law, but whose real purpose is to wring money out of helpless and ignorant voters.

On this particular raid mentioned 14 negroes were arrested and landed in the county jail.

About a year ago I am informed that a total of 180 were put in jail in a single night on similar charges.

This practice is not a new one. It is an old method of fee collecting, and is as rotten as it is old.

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It is refreshing and hopeful to know that the sheriff of this county will not put the stamp of his official approval upon a continuance of these practices. He deserves to be commended for his stand. Right public opinion will accord him its full moral support.

Crime—1924. New York.

# COLORED BABIES JAILED WITH MOTHERS IN TEXAS

## Whole Family Must Serve From Two To Three Years In "Pen." Three Babies Under One Year Of Age Among Number.

## Grandfather Is Also Convicted In "Klan Kote" Down In Texas.

NEW YORK, June 16.—The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People today made public an account of the jailing in Texas of 3 colored babies, 7 months, 8 months and 3 months old respectively, with their mothers. The Houston Post, of Thursday morning, May 22, prints the following report of the case:

**BLACK BABIES GO TO PRISON**
**Mothers Sentenced to "Pen;" Take Children With Them**

Three suckling Negro babies were part of a whole family that, passed through Houston Wednesday on their way, to the penitentiary. They are charged with no crime, but their mothers, all sisters, two brothers, and their grandfather were convicted of assault to murder in Foard County last week. They were in charge of Bud Russell, penitentiary agent. The assault was made upon Sheriff L. D. Campbell and his deputies when they made a visit to the farm operated by the Negroes for the purpose of making an arrest for some trivial offense.

The brothers, Eugene, 12, and Nathaniel, 14, were sentenced to the reform school. Their grandfather, Luke and the three women, Bertha, Levy and Mandy, were sentenced to the State farm for from 2 to 3 years.

The babies are Emma Sue, 7 months old; May Lou, 8 months old, and Bobby Cloud, 3 months old. The entire family gave their surnames as Wells.

When the babies are released from the farm they will be husky youngsters.

"We ain't done nothin," one of the women said. "These white folks said that we had to go and they wuz nobody to take the babies so they had to come 'long too."

The Negroes are said to have fired on the sheriff's force with shotguns. But in spite of this, he gave a letter to the agent directed to penitentiary officials, asking that the family be treated kindly.

St. Louis Argus 6-20-24

Crime — 1924.

Oklahoma.

OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLA.—A white law firm at Oklahoma City has divided on the question of service in the appellate court for Elias Ridge, 13 year Negro youth sentenced to be electrocuted for the murder of one Mrs. Adair. The desire of appeal having reached the ear of Mr. C. Hamon, he offered services of his firm without charge. Upon knowledge of this, his partner, Mr. J. B. A. Robertson, immediately made public a letter stating that the offer of Mr. Hamon was without his knowledge or consent, and that he believed that Ridge had had a fair trial. Mr. Hamon then made public a second letter reaffirming his offer to act as counsel for Ridge. The communications were made public through The Black Despatch, which had advocated a new trial for Ridge.

Oklahoma
Independent
5-8-24

Crime—1924.

Oklahoma.

# JURY GIVES DEATH SENTENCE TO CHILD IN SECOND TRIAL

Kansas City Sun Special.

Pryor, Okla., May 7.—Perhaps the youngest child ever to receive a death sentence in any civilized world, is Elias Ridge, 13-year-old Negro boy who, for the second time, was convicted by a white jury in Mayes County in April.

He was convicted of killing a white woman more than a year ago. It is said that during both trials the mob spirit ran high, and it is generally thought that the jury stood in fear of the Klan.

Kansas City Sun

**Appeal to Argus Readers.**

Below is a letter from young Ridge following his last conviction:

To St. Louis Argus:

"I am the little 13-year-old colored boy who was convicted for murder in the district court of Mayse County, Oklahoma. 6-10-24

"I am not guilty. I have no money or friends. Lawyer W. H. Twine of Muskogee, Okla., defended me without fee. I was convicted today and I want to make an appeal. The jury was out over twelve hours before they returned a verdict.

"I am asking for help, and if you write me, send it in care of my attorney at Muskogee, as I will leave here for the pen at once.

"I received some help at my first conviction from the N. A. A. C. P., and my case was reversed and this is the second trial.

"Sentenced to die June 13, 1924.

"Elias Ridge."

Unless a new trial is obtained or executive clemency secured, young Ridge will be electrocuted.

Crime — 1924

Pennsylvania.

HARRISBURG PA. PRESS
FEBRUARY 5, 1924

# *Machine Solves Mystery Slaying*

**Bert T. Vernon, a Negro, with the lie detector machine on him being questioned in the chief of police's office in Los Angeles. The test resulted in Vernon confessing that he had killed a man on Jan. 22.**

Crime — 1924

Pennsylvania

PHILADELPHIA EVE. LEDGER
JANUARY 12, 1924

# FIGHT DUEL WITH 1 PISTOL

## Man Wounds Opponent After Being Shot Three Times

Two men are under arrest in the Nineteenth and Oxford streets police station following a shooting at Nineteenth and Girard streets in which both men received three bullets in the left leg. Police say that they were fighting over a small sum of money.

They are Harry Smith, of North Fawn street, and Julian Anderson, of Stiles street, both Negroes. Smith shot Anderson, after which Anderson took the pistol away from his opponent and shot him three times, police say. Both are charged with assault and battery.

Crime—1924.

South Carolina.

Journal
Herald

# PEOPLES VOICE

**AN UNFAVORABLE CASE**

Editr The News:

Will you please allow me space in your paper for a comment? I didn't think our sheriff, Mr. Rector, would have any more of our boys handcuffed to a negro after they carried that boy to Columbia last year handcuffed to a negro. My boy, Frank Bright, and a negro were caught warming up some beer, so they say, and arrested by Arthur Blakely, Mitchell Tom Slaton, Cothran and Jones. He asked them not to handcuff him, that he would go with them, but they handcuffed him to the negro and carried him to jail. I don't think they treated my boy right. I was awful sorry that he was disobeying the laws, for I sure am against whiskey. But this was the first time I ever knew of him being locked up. He came up with his bondsman and pleaded guilty.

He served in the army before the war and also during the war and has good discharge papers. I think if our judge, Mr. Dennis, had known the circumstances he would not give him six months for hard labor for the first offense. I was looking to my son Frank for support. I am seventy years old and have been a cripple for thirty-eight years and I haven't a home and I don't feel like I will live to see his time out. May God bless him and those who didn't treat him right.

MRS. ELIZA BRIGHT.

Greenville.

**Negro Electrocuted.**

Columbia, S. C., June 20.—Charlie Simuel, a young Spartanburg negro, was electrocuted at the state penitentiary at 8:40 o'clock this morning for the murder of Samuel Long, an old negro, several months ago. Before going to the chair he confessed that he killed Long with robbery as the motive. He showed no signs of nervousness.

Baltimore Sun 6-21-24

Constitution

**WHITE CRIMINALS OUTNUMBER NEGROES**

Savannah Journal

York, S. C., July 24.—(By the Associated Negro Press.)—White citizens of this county are amazed at what they term the gain of the white criminal class in numbers as compared with the Negro. The population of the county in whites and Negroes is about equal, with any advantage in favor of the Negro, whereas there are ten whites to every four Negroes in the county jail. It is also significant that the offenses of the Negroes are petty crimes such as bootlegging, and the crimes of the whites include murder and burglary. The whites are alarmed to see the Negro law-abiding class gaining on them.

7-26-24

Crime - 1924.

Tennessee.

## Bully for Sheriff Knight!

Sheriff Knight says that last week he released 180 negroes that had been sent to the county jail from magistrates' courts. He adds this explanation:

"Raids just for fees, and not for the purpose of law enforcement, are not going to continue."

That's fine! We understand that the sheriff's determination meets with the approval of the criminal court judges, the attorney-general and the grand jury. 10-3-24

With the support of the criminal court machinery, there is no reason why the sheriff should not be able to carry out his purpose to put an end to the iniquitous fee grabbing that has disgraced this county for many years.

We have no doubt that the sheriff was fully justified in releasing the 180 negroes last week. And if he was justified in setting them free, the probabilities are that the magistrates and the deputies responsible for their incarceration abused their official powers in sending them there.

While we are at it, it would be a good thing for the community if those empowered to do so would make an investigation of the conduct of the magisterial offices. The magistrate whose official conduct is above reproach would not object, and if there are any who are guilty of malfeasance they should be swept out.

The sheriff declares that there are too many deputies hanging around the magistrates' courts, and that he is going to reduce them by half.

That's more good news. The citizens of this county want the law enforced and criminals prosecuted, but they do not want any persecution. It's time that the harassing of negroes and poor whites by the fee grabbers be stopped.

We commend the sheriff for his expressed determination to put an end to it.

# Jailer Owes Life To Heroic Act Of Negroes

## Stopped Rush Of White Prisoners To Freedom At Pistol Point

**Clyde Horner and Isaac Poole, two Negro trusties at the Knox County jail, truly came in for their share of praise last Thursday night when they played the roles of heroes in rushing to the rescue of night jailer, Arthur B. King, who had been overpowered and was grappling with scores of mutinous white prisoners who were confined on the second floor of the jail.** Tennessee News

Jailers, when they have occasion to open the cell doors where a group of prisoners are confined, always leave their pistols in the jail office. On Thursday night at 9 o'clock Jailer King opened the door leading into the cage where the prisoners were to allow one of the Negro trusties to enter for the purpose of cleaning the floor when Lige Haggard, white, suddenly pounced upon the jailer and proceeded to pound him. The jailer grappled with his assailant while the other prisoners rushed from their cells to the aid of their fellow prisoner. Clyde Horner who was close behind Jailer King when he was attacked readily realized the serious situation and made a hurried descent to the office where the big artillery was stored and summoning Poole, the other Negro trusty and placing a pistol of large calibre in his hands the two stood at the foot of the iron stairs and warned the onrushing prisoners that if they made another move they would shoot. The sight of the heavy artillery proved too much for the prisoners and when they paused Jailer King rushed from the rear to where his black guardians were on the job and taking command the prisoners were ordered back to their cages where their bad conduct later resulted in their being held in solitary confinement. 11-6-24

Sheriff Anderson as well as Jailer King were loud in their praise of the Negro trusties for the faithfulness and bravery which they exhibited.

Crime—1924. Tennessee.

MEMPHIS, TENN. Com'l-Appeal
JAN 5 - 1924

# Memphis Homicide Rate Due to Negro Killings, Analysis Shows

That the large and unenvied homicide rate given Memphis by statistics, statistical experts and varied insurance reports is due to the large number of killings of negroes by negroes is indicated by an analysis of deaths by violence in 1923 which has just been compiled by Commissioner Allen.

Of the 78 killings during the year 63 were negroes, of which 56 met death at the hands of other negroes.

The full report with a history of each case follows:

The date is given first, then name of person killed, color, whether resident or nonresident, place where crime was committed, whether solved or not, number of arrests made and disposition of the cases, in the order given.

Jan. 1—Alvin Lanier (C.), resident, 63 Lucy, shot by T. Jackson (C.), solved, 1 arrest, 21 years in pen.

Jan. 6—Frank Fair (C.), resident, 45 Mulberry, shot by Charley Henry (C.), solved, 1 arrest, exonerated by grand jury.

Jan. 7—Cleveland Williams (C), resident, 999 Madison, shot by H. Tracy (C), solved, 1 arrest, nolle prossequied by attorney general.

Jan. 24—Percy Brown (C), resident, Carpenter Street, shot by Officers Hogue and Stocks (W), solved, 2 arrests, exonerated by coroner's jury.

Jan. 24—George Nelson (C), resident, 900 Annie, shot by R. W. Smth (W), solved, 1 arrest, exonerated by federal grand jury.

Swain, (C), solved, 1 arrest, exonerated by grand jury.

Feb. 13—Willis Chatam (C), resident, Scott and Vassar, shot by Sergt. T. B. Wilson (W), solved, 1 arrest, exonerated by coroner's jury.

Feb. 17—Richard Holland (W), nonresident, 1081 Lane, shot by J. D. Watts (W), solved, 1 arrest, exonerated by coroner's jury.

Feb. 26—George Farmer (C), resident, 325 Madison, shot by Viola Page (C), solved, 1 arrest, acquitted by jury.

March 13—John Hendricks (C), resident, McCall Bldg., shot by J. B. Still (W), solved, 1 arrest, exonerated by coroner's jury.

March 18—George W. Ely (W), nonresident, Union Station, shot by A. A. Enor (W), solved, 1 arrest, 1 to 5 years in penitentiary.

March 23—Annie Mitchell (C), resident, 342 Beale, stabbed by Marcell Williams (C), solved, no arrest, at large.

March 28—Arthur Harris (C), resident, 275 East Calhoun, stabbed by Emma Lindsey (C), solved, no arrest, at large.

March 31—Harold Young (W), resident, 774 Kerr, shot by B. J. Blake (), solved, 1 arrest, 6 years in state ormatory.

April 8—Fred Jones (C), resident, 2 Florida, stabbed by Walter Arthur (C), solved, 1 arrest, 2 to 10 rs in state penitentiary.

April 8—Troy Roberson (C), resident, 214 North Front, stabbed by eresa Rawls (C), solved, 1 arrest, years in state penitentiary.

April 11—Douglas White (C), resident, 1639 Patton, shot by George hite (C), solved, 1 arrest, 10 years state penitentiary.

April 14—Minnie Rolland (C), resident, 1257 Poplar, shot by G. G. Dra r (C), solved, 1 arrest, 8 years in ate penitentiary.

April 25—John H. Wooten (C), resident, 1073 South Wellington, shot by hn Whitfield (C), solved, 1 arrest, to 5 years in state penitentiary.

April 25—John Bush (C), resident, 4 Wicks, shot by highwayman, not lved, no arrest, unsolved.

June 3—Louise Daniels (C), resident, 629 Jessamine, stabbed by Walr Winters (C), solved, no arrest, at rge.

June 7—Roy Ridley (C), resident, 82 Pontotoc, stabbed by Helen Ridy (C), solved, 1 arrest, case pendforfeited $2,500 bond.

ne 7—Unknown (C), nonresident, Pershing, stabbed by unknown y or parties, not solved, no ar- unsolved.

ne 16—Luther Claxton (C), resi- 242 North Front, stabbed by ie Claxton (C), solved, 1 arrest, ars in state penitentiary.

ne 17—James Holt (C), resident, Peach, shot by Lonnie Sanders solved, 1 arrest, exonerated by ner's jury.

ne 19—John Miller (C), resident, Pennsylvania, shot by C. L. Bren- (C), solved, no arrest, at large.

ne 23—Emma Mosely (C), resi- 171 East McLemore, stabbed by Lee Jordan (C), solved, 1 arrest, pending, forfeited $2,500 bond.

ly 6—Julia Ardison (C), resident, Rayburn, shot by Ernest Ardison solved, 1 arrest, 21 years in state entiary.

ly 9—Mrs. Gazelle Roe (W), nonent, 212 Cedar shot by J. A. Roe solved, 1 arrest, committed sui-

ly 9—Doris Roe (W), non-resi- 212 Cedar, shot by J. A. Roe solved, 1 arrest, committed sui-

ly 14—Mrs. Lois Nichols (W), den, 123 Monroe, shot by C. C. ol (W), solved, 1 arrest, com- te suicide.

ly 22—Willie Stancho (C), resi- 189 Commerce, stabbed by Lola Neal (C), solvd, no arrst, at ge.

uly 22—Robert Piggan (C), resi- t), 650 Autumn, shot by Sidney d (C), solved, 1 arrest, 3 years in te penitentiary.

uly 29—Felix Banks (C), resident, Queen Bee, shot by Harvey Henrson (C), solved, 1 arrest, acquitd by jury.

July 29—Ernest Lenoir (C), resident, 1111 Texas, shot by George Clay ), solved, 1 arrest, exonerated by and jury.

Aug. 4—Charles F. Stevens (W) sident, 364 Vance, shot by Walter J hite (W), solved, 1 arrest, 21 years state penitentiary.

Aug. 5—Charley Johnson (C), resident, 17 North Lauderdale, shot by Reuben Jenkins (C), solved, 1 arrest, case pending.

Aug. 6—John Carter (C), nonresident, 319 Beale, stabbed by Rosie Johnson (C), solved, 1 arrest, 5 years in state penitentiary.

July 27—Otto Gaither (C), resident, 1050 Peach, shot by L. E. Grandjean (W), solved, 1 arrest, exonerated by coroner's jury.

Aug. 10—Odney Nixon (C), resident, Monroe and Orleans, stabbed by John Smith (C), solved, 1 arrest, 21 years in state penitentiary.

Aug. 9—J. H. Walters (W), resident, 131 Poplar, shot by Ruth Walters (W), solved, 1 arrest, case pending.

Aug. 19—Rosie Buchanan (C), resident, 1150 Lamar, stabbed by Willie Buchanan (C), solved, no arrest, at large.

Aug. 19—Sam Cole (C), resident, 2 South Second, stabbed by Columus Craft (C), solved, 1 arrest, case nding.

Aug. 27—Mrs. L. N. Schneider (W), sident, 2033 Felix, shot by Rennie vard (W), solved, 1 arrest, life in itentiary.

ept. 12—Willie Freeman (C), resit, Gayoso Hotel, shot by J. T. ce (W), solved, 1 arrest, case ling.

pt. 15—Robert Jones (C), resi- Boston and Southern, shot by y Van Pelt (c), solved, 1 arrest, erated by coroner's jury.

pt. 22—James Brown (C), resi- White and McGehee, shot by Freeman and Joe Lawson (C), d, 2 arrests, life in state peniy.

24—Julia Mayes (C), resident, and Madison, shot by Seaf ners (C), solved, no arrest, at

22—T. H. Underwood (C), t. Axie, shot by unknown ne- dup (C) no arrest, unsolved.

25—Sallie Jordan (C), resi- ar Veterans' Hospital, clubbed th by Walter Goodman (C), 1 arrest, exonerated by grand

27—Wheeler Davis (W), non- 190 East Calhoun, stabbed lie Asimou (W), solved, 1 aronerated by grand jury.

30—Luther Woods (W), resiot of Auction, shot by W. E. (W), solved, 1 arrest, acquitjury.

1—Edgar Sanders (C), resi- 7 Poplar, shot by Jack Stewved, at large.

0—Berry Oliver (C), resident, th Dunlap, shot by L. C. Ed- (C.), solved, at large.

14—Will Grant (C.), resident, ilson, shot by Dock Farmer, lved, 1 arrest, killed by Will in pistol duel.

19—Ada Dickerson (C.), resi- 12 Looney, shot by Ed Butler lved, at large.

20—Mote Williams (C.), resi- 74½ Haynes, shot by John Lane lved, at large.

21—Louis Richey (C.), resident, ssissippi, shot by Ethel Richey (C.), solved, 1 arrest, 5 years in penitentiary.

Oct. 29—Sallie May Lacy (C.), resident, 391 Turley, shot by A. Jackson (C.), solved, 1 arrest, committed suicide.

Nov. 1—O. Johnson (W.), resident, 1649 Vance, shot by Sam Loving (W.), solved, 1 arrest, exonerated by grand jury.

Nov. 12—Louise Kent (C.), resident, 588 N. Second, shot by Jerry Kent (C.), solved, at large.

Nov. 13—Bessie Baker (C.), resident, 53 South Willett, shot by Donnie Baker (C.), solved, 1 arrest, case pending.

Nov. 19—Robert Cooper (C.), resident, Polk and McKinley, stabbed by Hattie Hawkins (C.), solved, at large.

Nov. 20—Horace Grant (C.), resident, Cleveland and Speedway, stabbed by Cora Watkins (C.), solved, 1 arrest, case pending.

Nov. 10—Albert Sglato (W), resident, Vance and Third, shot by Sa Sanfillippe (W.), solved, 1 arrest, ca pending.

Nov. 24—James Branch (C.), resident, Beale and Wellington, shot by Charlie Perry (C.), solved, 1 arrest, exonerated by grand jury.

Dec. 1—Louis Andreoni (W.), resident, 144 East Calhoun, shot by W. Cummings and, K. Golden and I. Nelson (C.), solved, 2 arrests, Cummings and Golden case pending. Nelson at large.

Dec. 1—Charley Evans (C.), resident, Beale and Third, stabbed by Loretta Evans (C.), solved, 1 arrest, case pending.

Dec. 2—Fannie Albert (C.), resident, 1314 Peabody, stabbed by Howard Leon Albert (C.), solved, 1 arrest, case pending.

Dec. 7—Joe Borum (C.), resident, Jackson and Olympia, shot by Bennie Fowler (C.), solved, at large.

Dec. 3—Ethel Lee (C.), resident, 585 South Wellington, stabbed by Frank Lee (C.), solved, 1 arrest, case pending.

Dec. 12—Nathaniel Gotthrey (C.), resident, Lamar and Somerville, shot by Willie Mae Pettitt (C.), solved, 1 arrest, exonerated by grand jury.

Dec. 15—Daniel F. Lipford (W.), resident, 578 Auction, shot by robbers, unsolved.

Dec. 12—Alvin Franklin (C.), resident, 224 Gayoso, shot by Patrolman E. Nuismer (W.), solved, 1 arrest, exonerated by coroner's jury.

Dec. 24—Nathan Crutcher (C.), resident, Italian Ave., shot by Clyde Christian (C.), solved, 1 arrest, exonrated by coroner's jury.

Dec. 24—Alexander H. Briggs (W.), non-resident, 1215 Sledge, shot by Frank Brown and Alfred Ousley (C.), solved, 2 arrests, exonerated by coroner's jury.

Dec. 30—Willie C. Dabney (C.), resident, 1307 Trezevant, shot by Clement Harris (C.), solved, 1 arrest, exonerated by coroner's jury.

## Insists on Libeling Memphis

Dr. Fredrick L. Hoffman, contributing editor of a New York insurance paper known as the Spectator, should be more accurate in his comparisons of statistics on homicides or proceed to cease publication of them. The doctor-editor seems to derive great satisfaction in libeling Memphis. In publishing the murder records he never fails to give this city a strangle hold on first place. He figures in such a way that the list of homicides in Memphis is increased from 25 to 50 per cent.

We are informed that the next number of the Spectator will charge against Memphis 113 homicides for last year. That is just 35 more than actually occurred. There is absolutely no excuse for increasing the number 45 per cent.

The Memphis Police Department keeps an acurate account of homicides in this city. Commissioner Allen says there were 78. Mayor Paine backs up the statement of the commissioner. They know what they are talking about. The editor of the Spectator doesn't.

The mayor has wired a protest to Dr. Hoffman. It is not the first time that his attention has been called to the inaccuracy of his figures and the injustice of his statements. But the doctor ignores the protests and continues publication of his libelous statements. Accurate statistics are available to him or anyone else who wants them, but Hoffman doesn't seem to have any regard for accuracy.

Time and again it has been explained to him that fatally wounded men are rushed to Memphis hospitals from half a dozen states in the hope of saving their lives. Wounded men die on trains en route to Memphis. Some of them are dying when they enter the local hospitals. The lives of some are saved by the skill of Memphis surgeons.

But it matters not if a man recives his death wound 500 miles away from Memphis, if he dies here Hoffman includes his death in the list of

# NEGRO CONFESSES TO SLAYING OBE SPENCER

## Charles Barr Breaks Down After Days of Grilling.

## CLEARS MURDER MYSTERY

**Strange Shooting in May, 1923, Which Threatened to Go Down as One of the Unsolved Crimes, Described by Black.**

**Barr confessed to shooting Ruth McElwain-Tucker and Duncan Waller 30 minutes after he told of shootinfi Obe Spencer, Inspector Griffin said.**

Charles Barr, negro, grilled for several days in connection with the murder of Obe Spencer and the shooting of Miss Laura Wheaton Johnson, Memphis school teacher, in May, 1923, last night at 11 o'clock had confessed to the murder of

Spencer and the wounding of Miss Johnson.

The confession followed the recovery earlier in the night of a diamond ring believed by police to be the same one worn by Ruth McElwain Tucker on the night that she and Duncan Waller, her companion, were murdered. Over the lon gdistance telephone from Bowling Green last night, Mrs. McElwain, mother of the slain girl, described the ring her daughter had worn. The description furnished the police by Mrs. McElwain tallies exactly with the ring recovered from the room of the negro Barr's estranged wife.

Headed by Inspector of Detectives William T. Griffin and with Police Commissioner Thomas H. Allen present, detectives continued to question the negro, following his confession in the Obe Spencer case.

Detectives at 11 o'clock last night expressed the opinion that Barr would admit participation in the Tucker-Waller murder before daylight.

Barr had been steadily questioned for hours by members of the detective bureau. Shortly before 10 o'clock last night he asked for a drink of water. Detective Sergeant Phelan Thompson brought in two paper cups of water. Barr drank the water and sat quietly ofr about 10 minutes.

"How did you get out there that night?" he was asked by Inspector Griffin, regarding the Obe Spencer killing.

Barr replied that he had walked to Highland Avenue, had seen the car stop and had crept up behind. He declared that he heard someone scream and he started shooting. He then told how he ran around to the side of the car, attempted to get the money out of Spencer's pocket, took the watch from Miss Johnson's arm, and, as she continued to scream he continued shooting. He denied knowledge of having wounded the woman.

Besides Inspector Griffin, Detective Sergeants Lee Quianthy, Phelan Thompson and Granville Heckle were present when Barr made his confession.

Charles Barr, negro, charged with the murder of Obe Spencer on Highland Avenue in May, 1923, broke under the strain of continued questioning by officers yesterday and directed them to a room where they recovered loot worth $2,000 that had been stolen from two Memphis homes.

The .25-caliber Colt automatic revolver found in Barr's room when he was arrested has been identified by James Chase, 480 North McNeil, as one taken from his home on May 9, 1922, just one year before Spencer was shot to death with a similarly calibered revolver. Barr's statement led to the recovery of much other valuable matter that had been taken from the Chase home.

Discovery of the Chase linens and wearing apparel and the automatic in the possession of Barr, have added a material link to the chain the officers are welding about the negro.

Barr weakened perceptibly at noon yesterday. Detective Sergeant John Long was questioning him about the 25 caliber revolver. The negro had made one false statement after another, each to be repudiated within five minutes after it had been made. "Where did you get that pistol?" Mr. Long shot at him.

"If I told where I got the pistol it might implicate me in another crime."

**Directs Officer to Loot.**

Questioned skillfully further, the negro told the officers around him that they might find something of "interest" in the home of his wife at 415 North Decatur Street.

A squad of detectives went there. They found articles of great value, that had been stolen in house robberies.

D. Abraham, 450 North Willett Street, has identified rugs, linens, silverware, silks and other household articles found in the home of Barr's wife as stolen when his home was robbed on the nights of March 4 and March 30, 1923.

That Barr's career in crime extends much further back than March, 1923, is proven, police say, by the finding of silverware and other household articles that were stolen in May, 1922, when the residence of Mat Chase was burglarized. Mr. Chase has identified silverware, clothing and linens taken from his home, and the .25 automatic pistol.

In police court yesterday afternoon Barr sought to plead not guilty and be sent to jail. His counsel, Judge D. B. Puryear, declared that the court could only hold Barr to the state and that he was entitled to a speedy hearing. Detective Lieutenant Jamison, on behalf of the police department, asked that the case be continued until Tuesday. Mr. Puryear protested vigorously. He wanted his client sent to the county jail. Mr. Purvear did not say why. Police assumed that counsel assumed that Barr would be more safe from questioning in the county jail than if he went in the police station. "The negro has not been abused. He carries no indication of any ill treatment," said the court. "I'll continue the case until the 22nd," Davis said, and Barr went back to the bull pen.

Four days ago the murder of Obe Spencer and the shooting of his companion were far from the minds of the police force and the public at large. The heinousness and brutality of the crime and the fact that in January, 1922, Duncan Waller and Mrs. Ruth McElwain Tucker were mysteriously slain on a rainy night near Berclair, created a sensation. The police and sheriff's forces concentrated all their efforts on the case. Every clew led to a blind alley.

Finally in sheer desperation the forces of the law admitted that they were baffled. The public forgot the murder and though it came occasionally to the minds of those who motored on lonely highways at night, it appeared as if it would go down unsolved. Then came the finding of the wrist watch that was torn from the arm of Miss Johnson when she and her companion were attacked.

**Negro Silent on Slaying.**

Events that have occurred since then have been dramatic and sudden. First the watch was traced to Suoda Barr, negro woman, from the pawnshop in which it was placed. From there the trail led to Charles Barr, negro servant of C. L. Van Forsan. Barr was arrested and in his possession was a .25 automatic pistol. The negro has been questioned almost constantly since he was taken into custody.

Barr mutters, then admits nothing. He cannot account for the possession of the watch. His story that he purchased the timepiece from the Bailer Jewelry Manufacturing Company has been proven a falsehood, so has his tale that he bought it from Este May Haves, negro, and other similar stories. He admits that he has lied but at no time have police been able to get from him the admission that he was the man who snatched the wrist watch from the arm of Miss Laura Wheaton Johnson after her escort, Obe Spencer, grocery clerk, had been killed by a shot fired from a .25 automatic pistol.

Even after the finding of the stolen loot in his former house yesterday afternoon, Barr still maintained that he was innocent of any crime.

**Sought Respite From Questioning.**

"I got it from a negro man—I have forgotten his name," he lamely averred.

This story varied finally as his other stories. He could not explain why he told them of the articles in his house or his reasons for knowing that they were stolen. Yet no word crossed his lips that could be taken to mean that he was guilty of robbery and murder.

"He told us of the stolen articles in his home to gain respite from questioning about the murder," Inspector Griffin said last night.

If respite was in the mind of Barr he gained his point. Following the finding of the household belongings taken into the burglaries he was led back to a cell. The negro fell across a bed and was fast asleep in less than three minutes.

"I have had the watch since the night of the murder," was an unguarded statement that escaped Barr's lips yesterday afternoon. He could not be pinned down but took refuge in "I don't know" and gazed vacantly at the wall.

Police say that Charles Barr, model servant, and who from statements of his employers was at home "early almost every night," is an Ethopian Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde.

"There is no telling what will be uncovered before we finish this investigation," was Inspector Griffin's statement early last night.

Barr was still being questioned late last night. Late in the afternoon he was quoted by detectives as saying that "the jigg is up—I am going to tell everything," but at midnight the "jigg" was still "down." Barr had not confessed and was [illegible]

# NEGRO CONFESSES MEMPHIS MURDERS

## Mysteries Cleared; Admits Slaying Three in Midnight Hold-Ups; Cache Found

MEMPHIS, TENN., July 19.—Two murder mysteries which have baffled city and county authorities for more than a year, were cleared tonight, according to the police, through the alleged confessions of Charles Barr, a negro, who was said to have admitted the slaying of one woman and two men and the serious wounding of another in midnight holdups on a lonely highway east of the city early last year.

Will T. Griffin, inspector of detectives, stated shortly before midnight that he had secured signed confessions from Barr detailing the murders of Mrs. Ruth McElwain Tucker and Duncan Waller in January 1923, and the murder of Obe Spencer four months later. Barr also admitted, according to the inspector that he shot Miss Laura Wheaton Johnson, Spencer's companion and robbed her of a wrist watch, which ultimately proved his undoing.

Robbery was the motive for both crimes, Mr. Griffin said Barr told him.

Barr was arrested by detectives Thursday morning, an hour after his wife Suoda Barr, had pawned a wrist watch at an obscure pawn shop. Learning that she had pawned the watch, detectives trailed the negress to her home, where she was questioned. She told detectives, they said, that her husband had given the watch to her some time ago.

The woman was taken to police headquarters and a squad of detectives set out to find Barr. He was in custody two hours later.

According to the detectives, Barr first told them that he had bought the watch from a local jeweler. Meanwhile, however, another jeweler had identified the watch as one he had sold to Miss Johnson in November, 1922. Barr later changed his story, Inspector Griffin said, declaring that he did not know where his wife got the watch. The woman maintained, however, that her husband gave it to her.

Late this afternoon Barr weakened momentarily, the detectives said and told them that if they would search his wife's home "they might find something of interest."

A squad of officers went to the home of the negress where they found more than $2,000 worth of rugs, silverware, linen, silks and other household effects. This was taken to police headquarters where a portion of it was later identified by two men as loot stolen from their homes within the past three years.

Meanwhile detectives had recovered from a pawnshop a diamond ring believed to have been the one worn by Mrs. Tucker on the night she and Duncan Waller were killed. This ring, like the wrist watch identified as Miss Johnson's, had been pawned by Barr's wife, the inspector said.

Barr's alleged confession of the Tucker-Waller murder and robbery was almost identical to his story of the Spencer killing, the inspector said.

# 70-YEAR-OLD NEGRO IS HELD AFTER SHOOTING

## Justice of Peace Charges Assault From Ambush.

SELMER, Tenn., Aug. 18.—Dick Cooper, a 70-year-old negro was held to the grand jury in a $2,000 bond in the court of Justices of the Peace Nickles, Lewis, Stone, Taylor, Plunk and McCullar here this afternoon. Cooper is charged with assault with intent to commit murder in the first degree. W. E. Beard is prosecutor. He was shot from ambush near his home on the highway four miles north of Selmer, on the afternoon of Aug. 1.

Beard swore that he saw Cooper immediately after he was shot, claiming his assailant was about 50 feet distant. Beard swore that Cooper used a single-barrel shotgun. Beard was severely wounded, 17 shot wounds were dressed. Cooper did not introduce one witness and did not take the stand himself. Terry Abernathy was prosecuting attorney. H. P. Wood represented the defendant. Cooper's bond was signed by C. C. Dodd and J. S. Smallwood. Mr. Beard is a retired merchant and justice of the peace in the seventh district. The trial attracted the largest crowd ever seen at a preliminary hearing in McNairy County.

# DEPUTIES SHOOT NEGRO.

**Martin nWtson Wounded When He Refused to Surrender.**

Martin Watson, 35, negro, wanted on a murder charge, was shot in the right breast by officers from the sheriff's office who attempted to arrest Watson in a house on the Merwin farm on the Walnut Grove road early last night. Watson, the officers reported, refused to surrender and ran behind some furniture. Fearing that he was after a weapon the forces of the law opened fire. The negro fell. At General Hospital where Watson was taken for treatment his condition was said to be serious.

Watson is alleged to have shot and killed his brother-in-law, Will Lee, negro, near Ridgeway, Tenn., last January. Both Watson and Lee were drinking, according to reports reaching the sheriff's office. Watson after a quarrel informed Lee that he intended to kill him and the idea seemed to fare well with Lee for the latter offered him a shotgun shell to aid him in his intentions. Watson declined the offer of the cartridge, procured one on his own account, and firing at his relative, killed him.

The officers in the party who arrested Watson were J. T. Hendricks, M. W. Palmer, J. G. Galloway and Clark.

Crime—1924.

Texas.

JAN 2 1 1924

## No Discrimination Before the Law

Professional friends of the negro in the North, and provincials whose conceptions of the South are based on the propaganda of abolition days, have been quick to seize upon the migration of negroes from the Southeastern States as evidence of the discrimination before the law alleged to be practiced against the negro in the South.

This unjust charge against the South has been heard time and again from individuals and newspapers that ought to know better, since the negro movement began directly after the war with Germany.

Just how utterly at variance with the true conditions in the South is this view of many Northern people, who have had no opportunity to know this great section of the Nation at first hand, is shown in a picture of the position of the negro in North Carolina, as painted by Associate Justice Heriot Clarkson, of the supreme court of that State, in the course of a decision rendered by the court in a case in which a negro was the defendant.

The associate justice affirms that the negro does have the equal protection of the laws, and declares that the best friends of the negro are his white neighbors. He cites a few facts to prove his assertions. North Carolina, he says, is spending $4,000,000 annually on negro education, $2,000,000 for teachers and $1,000,000 for new school houses, exclusive of money spent for negro colleges and normals.

The last legislature in 1923 appropriated $445,000 for the establishment of a negro agricultural and mechanical college; $50,000 to start a negro reformatory and $10,000 for maintenance.

When libraries for whites are provided, similar institutions are provided for negroes. The same applies in the establishment of parks. Everywhere the policy is to provide equal advantages for the negroes with the whites.

As for the negro's chances in court, the learned justice gives it as his experience, 'that in the trial of cases involving moneyed transactions between negroes and whites, if there is the least evidence that the white man has overreached or cheated a negro, the jury invariably decides for the negro.

Moreover, Justice Clarkson says, the best element of the negroes in the State is in full accord with law enforcement and the punishment of the negro who would overstep the bounds of rape and be guilty of rape or kindred crimes.

The testimony of Justice Clarkson is surely creditable. His life has been spent in the State, and his position has been such as to give him a thorough knowledge of conditions. And his words just quoted above are not an excerpt from a political speech, but from a court decision duly rendered and published in the court records.

If Justice Clarkson's opinion in this particular case could be widely read among the people of the North, it would do much to offset the influence of the mouthings of prejudiced and paid agitators of the race question. It shows, at least, that so far as North Carolina is concerned, what negro migration there is must be caused by something else than discrimination against negroes before the law.

APR 16 1924

## Falls County Negro Sentenced to Chair

MARLIN, Texas, April 15.—Harle Humphreys, negro, convicted slayer of Lee Frazier, stoically heard the death sentence passed on him in the Falls county district court here this morning by Judge Prentice Ollorf. Thursday, May 22, was the date set for the execution at the Texas penitentiary in Huntsvile. The hour was designated as "between midnight and sunrise."

Humphreys is the first defendant convicted in Falls county sentenced to die in the chair. He has been in the county jail in Marlin since a few days following the murder of L. O. Frazier at the Lee De Witt home in the McClanahan community on January 13, 1922.

Crime—1924.

Virginia.

EVENING WORLD
AUGUST 18, 1924

# ARREST 381 NEGROES ON LOOTING CHARGE

## Richmond Police Put Excursion Party in Jail.

RICHMOND, Va., Aug. 18.—Richmond police late last night arrested 381 Negro excursionists upon their return to this city on a blanket warrant charging them with looting a store at Hopewell and with being fugitives from justice. The arrest, the largest round-up on record here, was made without disorder.

The Negroes had gone to Hopewell on a river excursion. About twenty of the men, it is said, rushed the store, driving the proprietor from the premises and taking everything which could readily be carried away. The stock consisted for the most part of tobacco, watermelons and fruits and candies. The Town Sergeant, who said his force was unable to cope with the situation, hurried to Richmond by automobile and swore out the warrant on which the arrests were made.

The police, who met the excursion boat when she arrived here, instructed the Captain not to put out a gangplank until the patrol wagons were ready. Then the excursionists were passed down a single gangplank through the two lines of police into the wagons.

# EDITORIAL OF THE WEEK

### Murdered by Police Officers

(From the Richmond Times-Dispatch)

A Suffolk police officer has been arrested on a warrant charging him with having shot and killed a colored man who was trying to escape arrest for having trespassed unlawfully on a Norfolk and Western train. The Suffolk police officer may be wholly innocent. Certainly, there is no disposition to try him or anybody else in these columns. His case is taken merely as a sort of text. 8-20-24

This intolerable, ruthless and often cowardly killing of citizens by police officers, both in cities and in counties, has gone so far that at times it would seem to be the part of wisdom to deprive police officers of the right to bear deadly weapons. Unless he is carefully schooled, the average man seems to believe that when constabulary powers are conferred upon him, he is at once clothed with such broad powers of life and death as to warrant him in killing any person who speaks a sharp word to him.

Whether he is arresting, or attempting to arrest, for a felony, a misdemeanor, or a mere ordinance violation, the first thought of many a police officer seems to be: "If this fellow doesn't come along with me or if he doesn't halt when I tell him to, I gotta right to kill him, and I will kill him." That is so widespread an opinion that only old and experienced policemen in Richmond, for example, know how many unlawful and felonious woundings and even murders have been committed within the last twenty years by members of the police department. Richmond supplies only one set of instances; the general rule is the same pretty much everywhere.

An automobile goes speeding along; a motorcycle man gives chase; the automobile draws away; and thereupon the motorcycle man shoots at the tires. If he kills one of the car's occupants, he is guilty of murder. A Negro is shooting craps with a lot of his friends; the police, often instead of working on serious cases, rush the house or the room; the Negro jumps out of the window; some fool policeman runs to the window and shoots at the fleeing man; if the policeman kills the fugitive, he is a murderer.

A policeman has a right to use such force as may be necessary in making an arrest for a felony, even to the point of killing; he has a right to defend his life, even to the point of killing, when he is making an arrest for any cause; in some escape cases, but never a misdemeanor case, he is justified in shooting But in all other cases, he has no more right to shoot than any citizen, and if he kills, he is a murderer.

N. Y. C. EVENING WORLD
AUGUST 14, 1924

# FIND "BLACK BELT" IN CHICAGO CENTRE OF A CRIME WAVE

## Flooded With 'Floaters' and Unemployed, Who Fight Among Themselves.

## Whites Fear 200,000 in District May Spread to Other Sections.

CHICAGO, Aug. 14.—The "Black Belt" gradually extending through the centre of Chicago is found to be the centre of the mid-summer crime wave that has swept the city, bringing an almost unprecedented number of killings and major felonies—the parties to practically all of which, however, are Negroes, and not whites and Negroes in quarrels.

Here one of the largest Negro districts in the country, already populated by nearly 200,000, is being flooded with floaters and unemployed. Recent outbreaks have caused Chief of Police Collins to throw in additional police reserves to protect the growing trouble centre. Irresponsible colored elements, he says, are causing the great number of law-abiding to get the reputation of a criminal class.

Yet Chicagoans do not like to consider the problems raised by their rapidly extending colored section. They take little interest in the killings, the gambling, the depredations of the near South Side, which is solidly black. But they are becoming seriously concerned as the Negroes leave the old scenes and trek further south.

### NEGROES TAKE OVER THE ONE-TIME "GOLD COAST."

Already they have taken over the one-time "gold Coast" of the South Side. In scattered families they are reaching out as far as 70th Street, some seeping over into the district approaching the elite Hyde Park neighborhood. Washington Park, formerly a great playground for Southsiders, was this summer largely taken over by Negroes. Their advance has caused property owners to form an association with funds pledged to buy any real estate which a Negro seeks to purchase in the remaining white portion of the South Side, one of the most aristocratic of residential sections.

Alfred Anderson, editor of the Defender, Negro weekly publication claiming over 500,000 circulation, spokesman for the Chicago colored people, told the writer that the Negroes do not intend to restrict themselves to their present bound, but will live wherever they feel they care to live and have means to buy property.

"We feel," he said, "that we should have the same privileges as any other class. The attitude of some property owners, who shy for blocks around when some one of us buys property in a new section, has enabled the colored people to profit. They have been able to buy real estate for a song, and later to sell to their own people for near the fair price. This attitude of the white residents is neither fair nor sensible."

The editor declared that the Negroes of Chicago, who form probably the largest colony in the country, are satisfied. Unemployment, however, has hit them hard. The result is the outbreak of the crime wave which the Police Chief has found to be centred in the Black Belt. He has set out to close up some of the gambling halls where the "galloping dominoes" romp for high stakes and other forms of gaming are engaged in on a big scale. Tough loafers are being hauled in nightly in big batches. The police say that they are getting noticeable results in their attempt to rid the district of serious crime.

### EFFORTS BEING MADE TO SEND THEM TO FARMS.

Incoming Negroes, however, are finding it hard to get work and here the editor of their paper says that efforts are being directed to head them for farms in the undeveloped regions of Wisconsin, Minnesota and Michigan. Some already have set out for these cheap land sections, he declares, while others are being urged to try their hand at Northern agriculture.

The great number of colored persons still seem determined to build up their Chicago district. They have taken over the work in the packing house district almost to the exclusion of white help, and are filling a good share of the unskilled jobs in other industries. With most of the Negro population concentrated in its own section, friction with whites is largely lacking, a fact that leads the editor of the Defender to say that likelihood of further disturbances such as the race riot of five years ago is very remote.

The trouble now comes from criminals who have infested the Negro district bringing with them a wave of crimes that suggests to the police the troublous times when unemployment is heavy in winter months.

Jackson on Jem Sein

JUL 31 1924

# ONE NEGRO TO HANG, OTHER GETS 99 YEARS

## Following Confession of Killing Miss Wilson

(By The Associated Press.)

MOUND CITY, Ill., July 31.—Nine days after Miss Daisy Wilson, 18, was slain while attempting to protect her father from an attack by two negroes who had entered the Wilson store at Villa Ridge, Ill., with the confessed intent to rob, Hess Conners, 32, and Fred Hale, 19, Cairo negroes, entered pleas of guilty to first degree murder and robbery and were sentenced; the former to hang and the latter to serve 99 years in the Illinois state penitentiary at hard labor.

The decisions were returned last night in the Pulaski county circuit court by Judge J. T. Hartwell, following the presentation of evidence required in first degree murder cases.

Conners, whose date of execution was set for Oct. 17, had previously confessed to firing the shot that killed Miss Wilson, while Hale confessed complicity in the robbery.

The negroes were identified by J. C. Wilson, the girl's father, and by a woman and a girl as two negroes seen loitering about the streets of Villa Ridge, July 21, the night of the shooting.

Extreme precautions were taken by the county authorities to insure quiet during the trial. Following refusal of Gov. Small to send troops, Sheriff I. J. Hudson deputized 100 special officers who patrolled the streets surrounding the court house and maintained close watch in the court room during the proceeding searching all who entered, for fir arms.

# NEGRO SLAYER PLEADS GUILTY; TRIAL ON FRIDAY

State's Attorney Crowe and Chief Justice Jacob Hopkins of the Criminal court will try an experiment in speedy justice by murderers when tomorrow Lawrence Washington, confessed slayer of Nunzio Mascolino, Evanston confectioner, is placed on trial.

Washington was arrested Monday with George Foster, a companion gunman with whom he committed more than fifty robberies. On Tuesday Washington was indicted for murder. Foster was indicted for robbery. Yesterday the two bandits were arraigned before Judge Hopkins.

"What are your pleas?" the court asked.

**Both Plead Guilty.**

"Guilty," both answered.

"We have a confession from Washington detailing the killing of Mascolino, your honor," Assistant State's Attorney Louis P. O'Connell said. "State's Attorney Crowe directed me, in view of the possible plea of guilty, to have that case tried at once.

"Have you two men lawyers?" inquired the court.

They shook their heads in the negative.

"Do you want the court to appoint lawyers for you or do you wish to hire one yourself?"

"It don't make no difference. I'm guilty and don't deny it. I killed that man and am ready for whatever the judge says. I don't care if I get a lawyer or not," Washington answered.

"You must have an attorney and I will appoint Attorney M. H. Huggins to defend you," replied the judge.

**Trial Set for Tomorrow.**

"Your case will be set for Friday, when the plea for guilty will be heard."

If the judge's plan is carried out it will be the speediest bringing to trial of a murder case on record in the courts here. Other cases noted for speedy execution were those of Lucius Dolton and Henry Wilson, who were hanged two months after killing a policeman, and that of Leopold and Loeb who were in Joliet four months after killing Robert Franks.

These cases were tried after State's Attorney Crowe started his drive to rush murderers to trial.

MARION ILL REPUBLICAN
AUGUST 12, 1924

## What Is Crime?

Sentence of a negro to be hanged for killing an 18-year-old white girl nine days after the crime was committed, is the record just set in a small Southern Illinois town. It is safe to predict the condemned man will be executed on the day set—Oct. 17. No plea for clemency, signed by 8000 citizens, like that for the slayers of a St. Louis policeman, will be presented to the Governor of Illinois. This is a foregone conclusion. There were negroes on the Grand Jury that indicted him, and he confessed his guilt, so it cannot be said that he is a sacrifice to race prejudice. "The law's got me," he declared. He made no boast of his deed, in fact, he had not intended to murder.

"The crime is being caught," one of a pair of highly educated youths on trial in the northern metropolis of the same state was quoted as declaring recently. Many escape and few are caught, is the record here where 29 policemen have been killed in the past nine years, and only two of the slayers have played the death penalty. The boy slayers' counsel seeks mitigation of the punishment and arraigns the State for "bloodthirstiness."

In view of these facts, including the declaration of the confessed slayers that "the crime is being caught," it probably would not shock a certain class of people who rely on influence, alibis and paroles, to hear a modern Pilate ask: "What is crime?"

# Va. Court Halts Execution Twice, No Negroes On Jury

Petersburg, Va., Sept. 25.—James Bossy Patterson twice sentenced to die in the electric chair has recently been granted a writ of error in the Supreme Court of the State thru his attorneys, Wm. F. Denny and B. Franklin Harris.

Attorneys Denny and Harris represented Col. Robt. T. Kerlin in his suit against the Virginia Military Institute last year for $100,000.

Patterson was convicted of killing Irving Said, a Jew here two years ago. His lawyers fere [illegible] sighted enought to inject a federal [illegible] in the case and as a result has been enabled to take the case to the Supreme Court of the United States based upon the plea that no Colored men were permitted to act as jurors of the Court in which the condemned man was tried.

Crime—1924.

Virginia.

## To Eliminate Convict Labor Competition.

Richmond, Va., June 30.—Virginia's plan for the formation of a "state-use" system for prison-manufactured goods, eliminating them entirely from private use and competition with private industry, has been adopted by nineteen states, and every indication points to the successful formation of a national agreement indorsing the plan between the forty-eight state prison systems and the United States Government. This announcement is made by Major LeRoy Hodges, chairman of the State Prison Board of Virginia, after a conference at Trenton, N. J., where the Virginia plan was endorsed by Pennsylvania, Maryland and Delaware.

Manufactured
Record
7-3-24.

Briefly, the plan, which last year was presented to the House of Governors by Governor E. Lee Trinkle, calls for the following:

The constructive employment of all convicts able to work in all states of the Union.

The manufacturing of standardized articles for use by the state governments of the Union, or the United States Government.

The absolute elimination of convict labor from the manufacture of goods for sale in competition with private industry.

The education of convict labor in diversified occupations which will insure them a trade in the outside world.

At the present time prison labor in America manufactures $75,000,000 worth of goods a year, and $50,000,000 worth of it is sold on the open market, in direct competition with free labor and industry.

Individual states buy more than $500,000,000 worth of goods a year. If the 75,000,000 convicts in America could increase production through this standardized system to $100,000,000 a year, they still would supply the states with only 20 per cent of their needs, say advocates of the plan.

## 381 STRUTTERS JAILED.

**Darktown "Benefit for Library Fund" Comes to Grief.**

RICHMOND, Va., Aug. 18.—The South Side Strutters, a negro social and literary club of Richmond, gave an excursion yesterday to Hopewell for the benefit of the organization's library fund. Today 381 negroes, the entire boatload of excursionists, were under arrest.

Commercial Appeal
8-19-24

J. C. Rebman, town sergeant of Hopewell, swore out a blanket warrant for the negroes' arrest charging the entire party with being fugitives from justice, wanted for looting the store of a Greek restaurant in Hopewell.

About 20 of the "strutters" entered the Greek's store last night, drove him away and seized everything they could carry away, according to the town sergeant's charges. The sergeant rushed to Richmond and swore out the warrant.

When the excursion boat docked at the city wharf the "strutters" passed down the gangplank through a double line of bluecoats into partol wagons. For several hours the wagons moved between the wharf and the police station. Only a jazz band, composed of eight negroes, escaped the ride, the captain having confirmed their story that they had not been ashore at Hopewell.

It could not be learned how much had been raised for the "library fund" as a result of the excursion, but Nick Limbit, the Hopewell Greek, told police he had suffered a loss of approximately $150 in supplies in addition to the damage to his store fixtures.